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A media release from



Hindmarsh evaluation progressing

The Victorian-bred barley variety Hindmarsh is currently under evaluation for malting accreditation by Barley Australia and has almost completed its first year of commercial malt processing.

This is the first in a series of 4 hurdles to clear in the variety's pathway through the Barley Australia Accredited Variety evaluation process.

Until it is accredited as malting barley following the evaluation process, the variety remains classified as feed by Barley Australia.

Hindmarsh was released in 2007 by AWB Seeds and has now been grown for 3 seasons as a feed variety (the third season is still in the paddock with harvest looming). Some trial segregations of Hindmarsh are being proposed by industry to assist with its commercial assessment during this upcoming season.

Recent difficult production years have meant that until the 2008/09 crop, the variety has not had sufficient tonnages of suitable quality barley available for commercially malting for the Barley Australia evaluation process.

Following on from this 2009 commercial malt, a pilot brew will be undertaken during November this year; in 2010 the process will be repeated with a commercial malt (from the 2009-10 crop) and a subsequent sample of this malt pilot brewed.

Given all parts of the process proceed smoothly, the earliest Hindmarsh will achieve its Barley Australia Accredited Variety status will be March 2011 when the final brew is completed and analysed.

Barley Australia executive manager Linda Price said the 2 year Barley Australia Accredited Variety evaluation process was a crucial part in the variety's future uptake by overseas maltsters and brewers.

"The evaluation process undertaken by Barley Australia essentially comprises two years of commercial-scale malt processing, and a representative sample of the commercial scale batch of each year of malting is then brewed on a pilot scale," Ms Price said.

The task of taking a new variety to the marketplace for many of Australia's maltsters and malting barley marketers is made more efficient by the Barley Australia Accredited Variety system as Australia works together as an industry and is able to generate quality process performance information and data, which indicates to potential customers the variety's ability in both the malthouse and the brewhouse.

"Data generated by the commercial malting trials and pilot brewing trials is a foot in the door for the new variety, showing how the new variety performs on data collected on an industry, as opposed to individual, basis," Ms Price said.

Hindmarsh was bred by Dr David Moody, former Senior Barley Breeder, Department of Primary Industries, Horsham, Victoria through the Malting Barley Quality Improvement Program (MBQIP), and is commercialised by AWB Seeds.

For further information on Hindmarsh, contact Simon Crane, general manager, AWB Seeds on 03 5448 3881.

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