

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Enlow DU 8-3977  
Hayes DU 8-4026

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New Stiff-Strawed Winter Barley Made Available to Seed Producers:

A new winter barley -- with outstanding lodging resistance, yield, and winter hardiness -- has been made available to seed producers for fall planting, the U. S. Department of Agriculture reports.

The new variety, named Harrison, is recommended for the southern half of Indiana and is considered an acceptable variety for the rest of the State. Regional trials indicate it may be a good crop for other winter barley areas with a climate similar to Indiana's.

Harrison was developed in cooperative research by USDA's Agricultural Research Service and the Purdue University Agricultural Experiment Station, Lafayette, Ind. Distribution of seed is being made by the Purdue station. USDA has no seed for distribution.

In nursery trials at Lafayette between 1956 and 1962, Harrison showed exceptional resistance to lodging; it has excellent pre-ripening straw strength as well as post-ripening standing ability, a rare quality in winter barley.

Harrison was outstanding in yield, test weight, and winter hardiness during six seasons of testing.

The 6-year yield average for Harrison was 74.1 bushels per acre, compared with 62.7 for Decatur, 69.2 for Hudson, and 64.4 for Dayton, all popular commercial varieties.

In test weight, the new variety averaged 46.7 pounds of grain to the bushel, compared with 45.1 for Decatur, 47.7 for Hudson, and 43.7 for Dayton.

Winter survival rates, over a 7-year period, averaged 76 percent for Harrison, 60 percent for Decatur, 64 percent for Hudson, and 50 percent for Dayton.

The new barley has excellent resistance to leaf rust, powdery mildew, and scald. It has intermediate resistance to net blotch but is susceptible to loose smut.

Harrison is the result of six crosses, the first dating back to 1928, that combine desirable characteristics from seven parent varieties. The plants, which have moderately dense heads and rough awns, are relatively short at maturity, which comes at midseason.

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## HARRISON BARLEY

Harrison winter barley, released by Purdue University, 1963 has been outstanding in yield and excellent in test weight. In regional trials at 23 to 24 locations throughout northeastern and central U. S., Harrison has shown wide adaptation, ranking first of 31 varieties for yield in 1961 and third of 32 in 1962.

Harrison has been particularly outstanding in its resistance to lodging. It has excellent pre-ripening standing ability, a rare quality in winter barleys. The new variety has moderately dense heads with rough awns. It is relatively short in height and midseason in maturity.

Harrison is resistant to many diseases including leaf rust, powdery mildew, scald, and net blotch (intermediate) but is susceptible to loose smut. This represents an improvement over Hudson and Kenbar for net blotch and over Decatur for powdery mildew.