

VARIETY DESCRIPTION - MERIT

Merit is a spring barley bred and developed by Busch Agricultural Resources, Incorporated at Ft. Collins, Colorado

Merit is a two-rowed, mid-maturing, mid-tall variety widely adapted to the InterMountain West barley producing region. Merit is a malting type variety currently in pilot scale testing. It is most similar to the variety B1202. Merit is a mid-season spring barley, while B1202 is a early season spring barley. Merit has a mid-dense head, while B1202 has a lax head. Merit has glume hairs confined to a band, while B1202 glumes are completely covered with hair. Merit has higher diastatic power and alpha amylase than B1202. Merit has excellent malting quality.

Juvenile growth habit is erect. Plant color at boot is green with an upright flag leaf. Head shape is parallel and mid-dense in density with a nodding head type. Neck is straight with a saucer collar. First rachis segment is long and narrow. Base of the first segment is a margin flange with hairs on the margin. Rachis shape is plain with shoulder hairs and long hairs covering the edge. Glume length is one half the length of the kernel and glume hair is long and confined to a band. The glume awns are rough and equal to the length of the glume. Lemma awns are rough, longer than the spike and persistent. Lemma teeth are frequent. Lemma hair is absent and the base is a depression. Lateral floret formation is divergent with rounded lemma tips. Seed is covered, mid-long is long, finely wrinkled with wax present and the aleurone is colorless. Palea tips are crossed. Rachilla length is one-fourth the length of the kernel with long sparse hair all over. Ventral crease is open and lacks crease hairs.

Merit is resistant to net blotch. It is moderately resistant to scald. It has not been tested for any other plant disease, or insect resistance.

Merit will be multiplied from Breeder, Foundation, Registered, and through Certified seed. Certified seed will be available in the spring of 1998. Application for Plant Variety Protection under the Plant Variety Protection Act has been sent.