Haybet Barley

Haybet barley, CI 16569, was bred cooperatively by USDA-ARS and the Montana Agriculture Experiment Station and released in April, 1989 by the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station. Haybet is derived from the cross Betzes/Strip Tease that was made in 1960. Betzes was backcrossed to progeny from the initial cross six times while retaining the hooded characteristic so that Haybet was selected from the cross Betzes*7/Strip Tease. Strip Tease (CI 6837) is a dwarf hooded line with the palea split and reduced to five a partially open flower and an exposed kernel tip when the grain is mature. The 1970 F4 bulk of 8 hooded normal palea lined from Betzes*7/Strip Tease were tested in bulk for grain and hay production in 1973 through 1975 and in 1985 through 1987 as MT 4061 (Hooded Betzes). In 1987, 20 hooded line rows reselected from MT 4061 were bulked to form Haybet.

Haybet is a two-rowed, hooded, white-kernelled, spring, hay barley that is similar in agronomic, spike and kernel characteristics to Betzes (1) barley.

Compared to Horsford hay barley, which is the most widely grown hay barley in Montana, Haybet is 3 days later in heading and about the same in plant height and percentage of lodging. In a 20 station year comparison in Montana Haybet has 20% higher hay yield than Horsford and about the same amount of protein in the hay. There is no difference in grain yield between Haybet and Horsford, but Haybet has a higher test weight. Haybet is expected to be best adapted to dryland and irrigated areas in the Pacific Northwest and Northern Great Plains. Breeder and Foundation seed of Haybet will be maintained by the Foundation Seed Stocks, Plant and Soil Science Department, Montana Agricultural Experiment Station, MSU, Bozeman, MT.