



Washington State University

College of Agriculture

ADVANCE  
BARLEY

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NEW BARLEY VARIETY IS RELEASED

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PULLMAN, Wash.--Release of a new barley variety for farmers in Washington's Palouse and Idaho's Camas Prairie areas was announced here today by Dr. Landis Boyd, director of Washington State University's College of Agriculture Research Center.

It also may be grown in irrigated areas of Washington, Oregon and California.

The variety is named Advance. It is a six-row spring variety with good potential as a malting barley, although its malting classification will not be made until full-scale plant testing has been completed.

Advance was jointly released by WSU, Oregon State University, the University of Idaho and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It was developed by Andre J. LeJeune, Carl E. Muir, and Robert Nilan, WSU plant breeders.

Dr. Kenneth Morrison, WSU extension agronomist, said Advance is suited for production in areas that receive more than 16 inches of rainfall each year.

Nutritional tests indicate that it has higher feed value for livestock than Steptoe, which accounts for 77 percent of the barley grown in Washington, but it yields only 93 percent as much grain as Steptoe.

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However, Morrison said Advance has several advantages over Steptoe. It has little or no cold tolerance and therefore is very likely to kill over winter. This reduces the problem of volunteer barley in subsequent crop rotations. This is especially important when wheat is grown after barley.

Advance also is five days earlier than Steptoe and eight days earlier than Blazer, another common variety grown in the areas where farmers are likely to grow Advance. Morrison said this extreme earliness will permit Advance to mature under more favorable conditions, possibly escaping damage by premature late summer rains such as occurred in 1978.

Advance has some susceptibility to mildew, but in trials where this disease has been prevalent, yield losses were not detectable and malting quality was not impaired.

Morrison said Advance has shorter and stiffer straw, averaging two inches shorter than Steptoe, five inches shorter than Blazer, and seven inches shorter than Larker.

One possible defect of Advance is a tendency, like Blazer, to develop thinner kernels under adverse conditions. "However", Morrison said, "in the drought year of 1977, it produced considerably more plump and less thin kernels than Blazer."

It took more than 10 years to develop the new variety.

Foundation and registered seed for spring planting is available from the Washington State Crop Improvement Association, 513 N. Front Street, Yakima.