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Crop Report #1: German 2016 Spring Barley

Ladies and Gentlemen.

This is the first report by the Braugersten-Gemeinschaft e.V. (German Malting Barley Association) about German spring barley plantings for 2016. While official acreage data is not yet available, all quantities presented here are based on preliminary estimates compiled by local experts. The report provides an early summary assessment of spring barley acreages presently under cultivation.

Once again, Germany experienced an unusually mild and warm winter in 2015/2016. The average temperature was 3.6°C (38.5°F), which is 3.4°C (6.1°F) above the long-term reference mean compiled for 1961 to 1990. This makes the previous winter one of the warmest on record since the start of weather statistics in 1881. There were only two sustained frost periods, one in early January and one in mid-January. However, because of a warming blanket of snow, the freezing temperatures failed to create beneficial frost tilths.

Precipitation was 195 l/m², which was 7% higher than the long-term mean of 181 l/m². By March 15, however, winter was essentially over. The weather turned pleasant and the soil dried fast. This allowed sowing to take place between late March and mid-April in all German brewing barley regions. Because of favorable soil conditions, plantings were quick and compact, while changeable weather throughout April provided sufficient moisture in the ground and gave the seeds a good start.

The Barley Associations of the German States estimate that this year's total spring barley acreage is about 359,000 ha. In Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, there was some winterkill especially in winter wheat, winter rapeseed, and winter barley, which may still have an impact on the eventual spring barley acreage. The proportion of barley plantings intended for brewing purposes remains unchanged from the previous year. Barley varieties planted in Germany in 2016 follow the recommendations of the Berlin Program. The key varieties are Avalon, Catamaran, Quench, Solist, and Propino. In addition, Grace still dominates plantings in Bavaria, where it occupies some 40% of barley acreage.

The next crop report for German spring barley will be released in the middle of May.

For the Braugersten-Gemeinschaft e.V.

Walter König

Attachment: 1st German 2016 Spring Brewing Barley Crop Report

1st German 2016 Spring Brewing Barley Crop Report

	Acreage 2015 in ha	Acreage 2016 in ha	Brewing Barley Acreage 2016 in ha	Time of Planting	Acreage Currently Planted as a Percentage of Total Acreage	Soil and Planting Conditions	Winter Damage	Current Crop Conditions	Key Varieties as a Percentage of Total Acreage	
Bavaria	104.200	102.000	100.000	calender weeks 11 - 14	100%	changing weather conditions caused frequent field work interruptions; soil conditions mostly good	none	emergence; cracking stage	40% Grace 20% Catamaran 10% Solist 10% Avalon 10% Martheis Rest: Quench, Steffi, RGT Planet	
Baden-Württemberg	59.700	55.000	est. 47,000	calender weeks 11 - 15	95%	good, optimal	none	winter barley: EC 32-33; spring barley: EC 11-17; leaves unfolding	78% Avalon 7% Quench 7% Grace 5% RGT Planet 3% Sunshine	
Brandenburg	6.000	6.000	no brewing barley							
Hesse	19.800	19.000	18.000	early March to early April	>90%	good	none	early plantings good; later plantings not yet completely emerged	40% Avalon 20% Propino 10% Marthe Rest: Grace, Catamaran, RGT Planet	
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	7.000	est. 7,000 - 10,000	est. 3,000 - 4,000	late March to early April	90-100%	cool and moist ground; frequent night frosts; some night temperatures below -5°C (23°F)	in northeast of state, winterkill of mostly wheat, some rapseed, and an est. several 100 ha barley	germination to emergence	Solist RTG Planet Quench Speculation: a great portion of propagation	
Lower Saxony	45.000	45.000	26.000	March 10 to April 3	100%	regional variations; partly good to very good, partly too wet	none	emergence to BBCH 11/12	90% Quench 10% Avalon	
North-Rhine-Westphalia; North Eifel foothills	15.000	not available	not available	late March to early April	85%	good to satisfactory	none	emergence	75% - 80% Avalon Rest: Propino, RTG Planet	
Rhineland-Palatinate	42.400	41.500	37.350	calender weeks 13 - 15	90%	often not optimal; ground often too wet	≤5%	fast, good, and homogenous development; emergence; good growth; even stands	70% Avalon 20% Catamaran 8% Propino Rest: Others	
Saxony	25.600	25.000	20.000	April 4 - 17	95%	good	none	germination	Quench Solist Grace RTG Planet Marthe	
Saxony-Anhalt	7.700	7.500	5.000	early to late March	100%	optimal	none	very good	Quench Solist Avalon	
Schleswig-Holstein	8.500	8.000	no brewing barley							
Thuringia	29.200	27.000	25.000	March to early April	100%	wet conditions during planting	none	leaf development to 3 leaves unfolded	Quench Avalon Catamaran Solist	
GERMANY	370.100	359.000	287.000		almost complete					

Current as of April 15, 2016