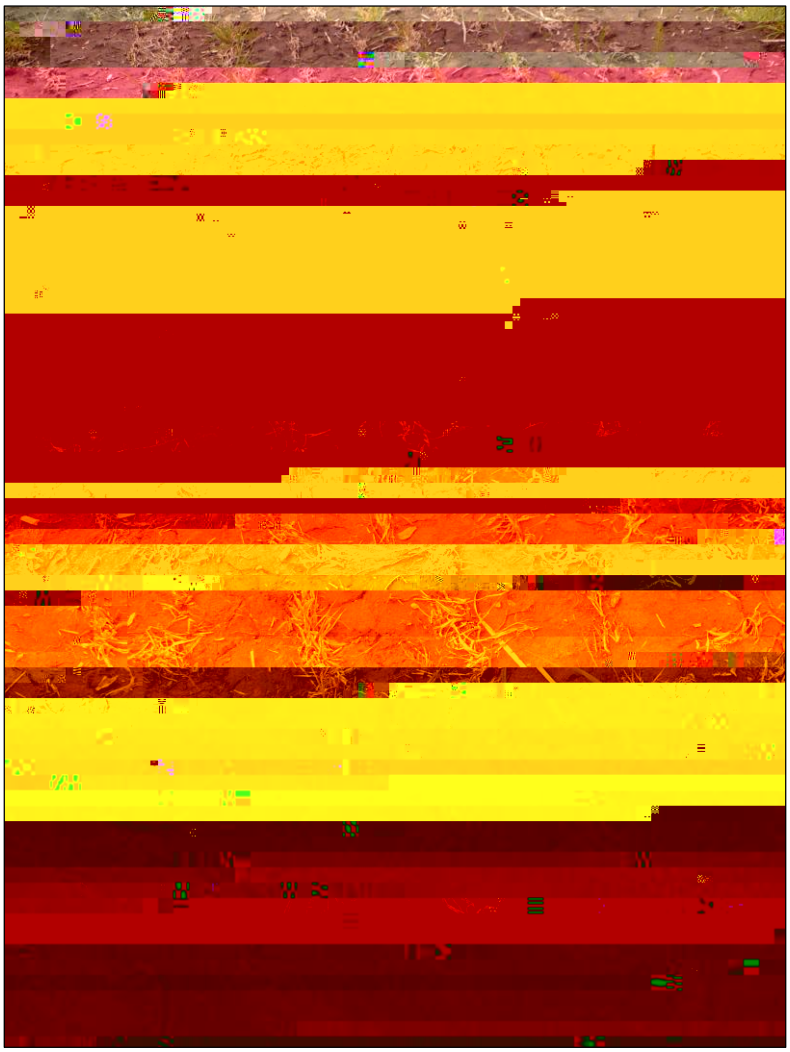
2017 Organic Winter Malting Barley Variety Trial



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2017 ORGANIC WINTER MALTING BARLEY VARIETY TRIAL

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The revival of the small grains industry in the Northeast and the strength of the locavore movement, craft breweries and distilleries have expressed an interest in sourcing local barley for malting. Malting barley must meet specific quality characteristics such as low protein content and high germination. Depending on the variety, barley can be planted in either the spring or fall, and both two- and six-row barley can be used for malting. In the fall 2016, UVM Extension, in collaboration with the Winter Malting Barley Trial (WMBT) testing network, conducted a winter malting barley trial to evaluate yield and quality of thirty varieties.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In the fall of 2016, a winter malting barley variety trial was established at Borderview Research Farm in Alburgh, VT. The experimental plot design was a randomized complete block with three replications. The treatments were thirty winter malting barley varieties, listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Varietal information for the 30 winter malting barley varieties, 2017.

Winter barley variety	Type	Seed source
Charles	2-row	USDA-ARS
McGregor	6-row	2016 Saved seed
Thoroughbred	6-row	2016 Saved seed
Endeavor	2-row	

AC09/327/2 (Lyberac)	2-row	Kilian Hundsrucker
Mission	2-row	Kilian Hundsrucker
Hirondella	6-row	Kilian Hundsrucker

All plots were managed with practices similar to those used by producers in the surrounding areas (Table 2). The previous crop planted at the site was winter wheat and rye. In September 2016, the trial area was plowed, disked and spike tooth harrowed to prepare for planting. The plots were seeded with a Great Plains NT60 Cone Seeder on 22-Sep 2016 at a seeding rate of 140 lbs ac^{-1} into a Benson rocky silt loam. Plot size was 7'x 20' (5'x 20' planted). A visual assessment of populations, winter survival, and vigor was conducted on 11-May.

Table 2.

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