



Consistency in a changing climate: Belter earns Full Approval for brewing

Secobra's UK-bred spring barley Belter has achieved Full Approval for brewing from the Malting Barley Committee (MBC) and secures top position on the 2026 AHDB Spring Barley Recommended List.

Belter's approval confirms its position as one of the most reliable, adaptable varieties in today's increasingly variable growing conditions. Delivering exceptional consistency across regions and seasons, Belter combines high treated and untreated yields with strong grain quality, stiff straw and robust agronomics.

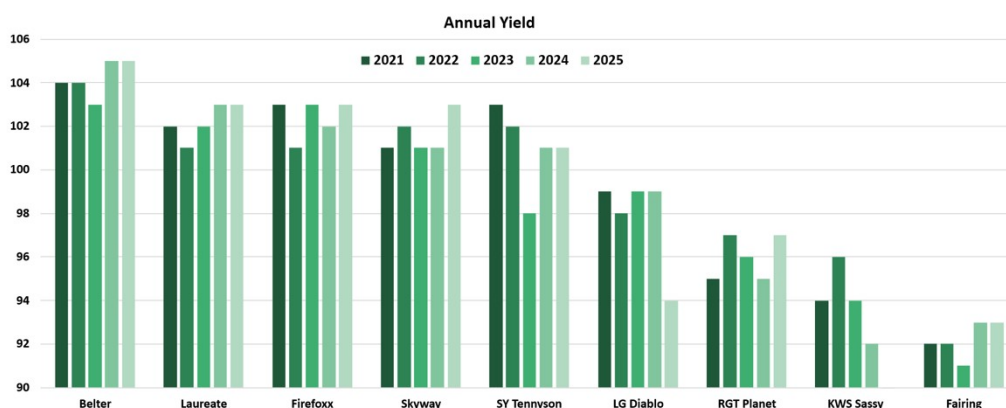
Bred in the UK by Secobra Research barley breeder Paul Bury, Belter has demonstrated outstanding stability in both field performance and malting analysis. Mr Bury says: "Over the last five years Belter has performed reliably in the field and in the lab, with consistently high yields across all regions, proving itself to be a highly adaptable variety.

"With its stiff straw, high specific weight and outstanding quality, Belter offers growers and end users a real step up in performance."

In brewing trials Belter has shown high hot water extract, good fermentability, enzyme levels for brewing and export requirements.



UK Variety Update Belter – Yield Performance over 5 Years



Belter has not been outyielded by any brewing, distilling or dual use variety

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Source: Spring barley RL 5-year report 2021-25

BELTER
SPRING BARLEY

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Simpsons Malt seed grain director Laura Beaty has been impressed by Belter's consistency.

She says: "We've been looking at Belter for three to four years now and what is standing out for us is that it has consistently been a top performer.

"As each year goes by, we get a better understanding of Belter's consistency - and consistency is important in today's highly variable climate."

Owen Southwood, UK procurement director for Soufflet Bairds Malt, says: "We need stable, consistent varieties that are able to withstand any weather challenge. Belter looks consistent across the entire UK geography; I think it is a very promising variety."

There will be good availability of Belter seed through a number of seed distributors for harvest 2026 planting.

Belter grain and malting quality

	Belter	SY Tennyson	Skyway	Laureate
Hot water extract	315.0	317.2	315.0	315.2
Predicted spirit yield	437.4	439.0	-	436.2
N% content	1.48	1.40	[1.48]	1.45
Screenings % 2.25mm	0.9	1.3	0.9	1.2
Screenings % 2.5mm	2.2	2.9	2.2	3.0
MBC Recommendation - Brewing	Full Approval	Full Approval	Full Approval	Full Approval

Source: AHDB

Belter agronomic profile

	Belter	SY Tennyson	Skyway	Laureate
Untreated yield	89	82	85	88
Treated yield 2026	104	101	102	102
Specific weight kg/hl	68.4	67.1	70.0	68.0
Lodging -PGR (1-9)	7	7	7	6
Height -PGR (1-9)	68	70	74	69
Ripening (vs Planet)	+2	+2	+1	+1
Brackling res. (1-9)	8	7	7	7

Source: AHDB

Belter's success reflects Secobra's commitment to the UK spring barley market, backed by long-term investment in British and European breeding, trials and supply chain partnerships. Secobra's UK programme focuses on delivering genetics that offer resilience, reliability and commercial relevance across farming, malting, brewing and distilling sectors.

With Belter now approved for brewing and available widely through UK seed distributors for harvest 2026 planting, Secobra is strengthening its position as a dependable partner to the UK barley supply chain.

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Belter: technical summary

Key variety benefits

- Proven consistency across seasons and regions
- High treated and untreated yields
- Excellent specific weight and grain quality
- Strong hot water extract and good fermentability
- Stiff straw, high brackling resistance and sound disease package
- Very good malting quality