

CRISP MALT UK CROP REPORT

2023

England Harvest 2023

Harvest in England began in July, with Winter barley being harvested in very wet conditions. This resulted in some higher moistures. This did however improve as August began and the rain reduced.

In terms of winter barley, we saw nitrogen levels slightly above the 5 year average, and grain size slightly below the 5 year average. Adjustments were made by maltsters to accommodate this, and a very usable crop was able to be procured.

Yield of Winter barley was below the 5 year average overall.

Spring barley harvest in England saw a slightly later start than 2022, mostly due to the less favorable weather conditions. A considerable portion of the England spring barley crop (70-75%) was planted prior to March. March then saw a vast amount of rain, delaying planting of the final 25-30% of the crop. The crop produced was variable, mainly due to the differences in planting times. A vast difference in quality was seen between barley sown prior to March 2023, and that sown in April.

The crop however displayed a bold grain size, with few grain retention issues, although nitrogen levels were slightly elevated, mainly due to the reduction in yield achieved.

Scotland Harvest 2023

Scotland saw similar challenges with weather to England, however the planting prior to the March rainfall was much less, with a larger portion of the spring barley crop being planted in April and even into May. The difference in planting time led to a hugely variable crop in terms of quality.

Nitrogen levels in Scotland were above the 5 year average, and adjustments were made by maltsters to the specification to accommodate this. However a usable crop was taken in, with good grain size, despite the average to below average yield in some areas. Skinned corns were also an issue in some areas, although this was variable and did not seem to be variety specific.

Barley Markets

Across 2023 we have seen much less turbulent markets than those of 2022. Grain price has decreased and stabilised in recent months. This can be attributed to the opening of the Black Sea corridor to allow export of grain from Ukraine and Russia into the market. Looking forward, markets are currently fairly quiet, however we will all be keeping a close eye on the global supply and demand, as supply could be tight going into 2024.

