



**Cornell University**  
**Cooperative Extension**  
**Northwest New York Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team**

## **2014 Winter Malting Barley Varieties**

*By Bill Verbeten, Regional Agronomist, Cornell Cooperative Extension*

Farmers interested in purchasing winter malting barley seed in 2014 have a number of varieties available in New York. The 2014 Cornell Winter Malting Barley Variety Trial results are available [here](#). All varieties should be drilled at about 2 bu/A (~100 lb./A) and about 1 inch deep. Planting should take place the second half of September. See the [Growing Malting Barley in NY bulletin](#) for information about malting barley production practices. Both 6-row and 2-row malting barleys are being used in New York to make high quality beers and whiskey. The 6-row varieties generally have better agronomic traits (yield, disease resistance, resistance to lodging, etc.) than 2-row varieties under the climatic conditions of the Northeast. Historically 2-row varieties were preferred by brewers, but breeding advancements in the past 20-50 years have essentially eliminated the previous gap between 6-row and 2-row varieties for the needs of the craft brewing industry in the United States. For more discussion of 6-row vs. 2-row malting barley see these articles from [Oregon State University](#) and the [Brewers' Market Guide](#). Distillers are generally willing to work with both 2-row and 6-row barleys, but some brewing markets have a preference for 2-row barley. Discuss this with the [malt house](#) you are selling to prior to purchasing barley seed.

The survival of winter malting barley varieties is greatly increased by planting at the proper time (second half of September), placing phosphorous with the seed in furrow (not broadcasting), not planting in wet fields, having adequate pH ( $\geq 6.3$ ), medium to high soil potassium levels, moderate nitrogen at planting (10-20 lb./acre), keeping barley growth to no more than 6-8 inches going into the winter, having enough snow cover, planting in fields surrounded by trees, and of course selecting a winterhardy variety. If possible plant seed treated with a fungicide.

Wintmalt is a 2-row winter malting barley variety and is available through [Seedway](#) and [Preferred Seed](#) representatives and their affiliates. Wintmalt is the most widely grown winter malting variety in the Pacific Northwest and has better yield, winterhardiness, disease resistance, and malt quality than many older winter malting varieties. To purchase Wintmalt contact your local Seedway or Preferred Seed representative.

Endeavor is a 2-row winter malting barley variety and is available through CY Farms in Elba, NY. Contact them at 585-548-2552.

Soft white winter wheat varieties are being planted for the brewing market. Contact your local seed representative. Previous Cornell research has shown the variety Medina to have great brewing quality and partial disease resistance. Limited supplies are available from Edgewood Farms in Groveland, NY. Contact them at 585-243-3788.

Hybrid winter rye is not yet available commercially in NY, but it should be available next season. The Cornell Small Grain Variety Trials have documented yields of over 100 bu/acre of these new varieties for two years in a row with little-to-no lodging. However currently available, older varieties of winter rye will likely not exceed 40-60 bu/acre and have a higher risk of lodging.

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