Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center

Malting Barley Update

Presented by:
Ashley McFarland, Director
MSU Upper Peninsula Research & Extension Center
Overview

• Barley in UPREC research program for 10+ years
• Last three years focused on malting barley
• Estimating less than 500 acres grown in 2014, less than ½ actually malted
Past research

Variety trials – Fertility trials – Fungicide trials
2014 Research

• Four-site variety trial (Alger, Schoolcraft, Presque Isle, and Leelanau Counties)

• Focusing on production and quality analysis of 23 varieties
2015 Research Outlook - Variety Trials

- Continued variety trial @ UPREC and one site in northern Michigan
- Eastern U.S. variety trial
- UK research addressing heritage varieties and FHB
2015 Research Outlook - Management

Pre-harvest sprout – Seeding rate – Fertility
Challenges

• Access to certified seed
  • Only 8 acres of certified malting barley seed grown in Michigan in 2014
  • Little availability of Upper Midwest adapted varieties
Challenges

- Climate
- Two row vs. Six row debate
2015 Initiatives

• Establishment of a quality analysis laboratory at UPREC
• Development of a seed directory
• Inventory harvest and malthouse capacity
2015 Initiatives

• Spartan Barley
  • Variety released by MSU researchers in 1920s
  • Widespread use throughout U.S.
  • Replaced by more modern varieties by 1960s
  • However, adapted for Michigan!
Challenges

- Access to processing – malthouses
Malthouse opportunities

• Two operational malthouses in-state
• Will likely triple number of malthouses in 2015
• Feasibility study strongly supports potential in northern Michigan
Craft Maltsters Guild

• Varying membership options
• Diverse array of forums
• Key resources for the industry
Educational opportunities

• North Dakota State University Barley Field School – July 21st – 23rd, Fargo, North Dakota

• Canadian Malting Barley Technical Centre
  • Malt Academy Two-Week Program
  • Malt Academy Three-Day Overview

• Many malthouses host training events and/or provide consultation
Malting Barley Project
http://agbioresearch.msu.edu/centers/uprc/malting_barley