

CDC Fraser Malting Barley

The Next Great One

Many new barley varieties come to market each year, but only a handful have enough impact to gain a reputation across the entire industry.

Harrington put Canada on the map as a trusted, high-quality malt barley supplier. At its peak in the late 90s, Harrington made up 70% of the two-row malting barley acres. This was followed by AC Metcalfe that held as much as 60% acreage and was the number one variety from 2005 to 2015. Since then, CDC Copeland has held the top spot for acres.

Many varieties can make great beer. But it takes consistency in the malt house and a broad end-use fit to be widely adopted by brewers and maltsters - and ultimately it must have strong agronomics in order to appeal to growers. **CDC Fraser checks all the boxes.**

Peter Watts, Managing Director at the Canadian Malting Barley Technical Centre (CMBTC) says, *“Malting barley can be processed differently to produce different specs, i.e. Fraser can be slightly under modified and produce what we would typically consider Copeland-like specs, but can also be well modified and produce what we normally think of as Metcalfe-type specs. Arguably, Fraser is more versatile than Copeland or Metcalfe as it can fit both categories.”*

“CDC Fraser is a high yielding, high enzymatic variety, with malt characteristics that make it a good fit for adjunct brewers – who make up the majority of the domestic and export malt market,” says Drew Sharp, Boortmalt/Prairie Malt at Biggar, SK. *“Prairie Malt will be steadily increasing its purchases of CDC Fraser over the next few years in response to increasing demand for the variety from brewers and distillers.”*

After three years of market development in Canada and two years of pilot malting in key markets around the world, CDC Fraser is demonstrating broad appeal from an end-use perspective – but it needs to work for farmers too. Across western Canada, on average, CDC Fraser yielded 114% of AC Metcalfe and 108% of CDC Copeland in registration trials. In the provincial seed guides it is a top tier performer across the west.

“The variety has a similar disease package to Copeland and Metcalfe, great yields and the malt quality is excellent. CDC Fraser has a higher enzyme package, low beta glucans, modifies well, and can be easily used as a regular 2-row malt or for brewers looking to use higher rates of adjuncts in their brew.”

“ I like Fraser, and from a commercial malt standpoint it is shaping up to be the Metcalfe replacement that we have been looking for. ”

~ Rich Joy, Director of Malting and Technical Services with Canada Malting

Dale Wylie at Wylie Seed and Processing adds, *“In 2020 and 2021 we planted barley trials and in both years, CDC Fraser was one of the top yielders. This shows consistency in the variety, as we had a very high production year in 2020, then a very low production year in 2021 with the drought. Both growing seasons it held close to top position. It seems to be coming through the malt trials and gaining acceptance, so should be a strong player in the near future.”*

Matt Enns, farmer and owner of Maker's Malt at Rosthern, SK thinks CDC Fraser *“will come out the other side gaining market share. I see the variety as the best Metcalfe replacement – that means it could have huge potential for adjunct brewers and export – read big volume! China and the largest North American brewers will like the powerhouse Fraser can be in the brewing process, second only to its high enzyme capacity. And just as important – farmers will love the significant yield and lodging improvement over Metcalfe.”*

CDC Fraser has the characteristics to be the next great widely-adopted malting barley. Contact SeCan for more information.

DID YOU KNOW

SeCan malt varieties are named after Canadian rivers (Bow, Churchill, Fraser) – signifying the importance of fresh water to make great beer. CDC Fraser has a dual meaning as a ‘tip of the hat’ to Fraser Thomson, who spent much of his career shaping the Canadian malting industry.

