Southern Idaho, 2015

Spring Barley Quick Facts

University of Idaho Extension

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2014 Idaho barley crop

Harvest: 515,000 acres **Yield**: 95.0 bu/acre
Production: 48.9 million bu

Growth stages and development

Spring barley growth stages and development.

Stage	Feekes scale	Description
Tillering	1	1st leaf through coleoptile
	2	Beginning of tillering
	3	Tillers formed
	4	Beginning of erect growth
	5	Sheaths strongly erect
Stem extension and booting	6	First node detectable
	7	Second node detectable
	8	Flag leaf just visible
	9	Collar of flag leaf visible
	10	Boot swollen/1st awn visible
Heading	10.1	1st spikelet visible
	10.2	Heading ¼ complete
	10.3	Heading ½ complete
	10.4	Heading ¾ complete
	10.5	Heading complete
Flowering (prior to head emergence)	10.51	Beginning of flowering
	10.52	Flowering ½ complete
	10.53	Flowering complete
	10.54	Kernels watery ripe
Ripening	11.1	Medium milk
	11.2	Soft dough
	11.3	Kernel hard
	11.4	Harvest ripe

Rotation and seeding

- Barley grows well in rotation, but is not recommended after small grains or corn when alternatives are readily available due to disease pressures.
- Good seed-to-soil contact and moisture availability are needed.
- Seed depth: 1.0 to 1.5 inches.
- Row spacing: 6 to 8 inches is ideal.
- Seeding rate: approximately 800,000 seeds per acre is ideal. Actual seeding rate depends on seed size, purity, % germination, and seed viability.
  - Irrigated: 70 to 100 lb/acre
  - Dryland: 60 to 80 lb/acre
- Minimum soil temperature for germination: 40°F.
- Seed treatments can improve stand uniformity and protect the crop from pests, particularly under cold/wet conditions.

Spring barley seeding date estimates.

Location	Timing
Treasure Valley	Late February to mid-March
Magic Valley	Mid-March to early April
Upper Snake River Plain	Late March to late April

Irrigation

- Drought stress prior to soft dough (Feekes 11.2) reduces yield.
- Yield reduction due to moisture stress is greatest at tillering and/or boot to flowering.
- Excessive moisture can cause lodging.
- Irrigate based on soil moisture depletion estimated by ET.
- Evapotranspiration (ET): ~ 15 to 19 inches of water per season.
- Peak ET: mid-June to mid-July, decreasing after soft dough.
- Water-holding capacity (amount of water in soil for crop use):
  - Loamy soils: more than 2 inches per foot
  - Sandy loam soils: 1 to 2 inches per foot
  - Sandy soils: less than 1 inch per foot
- Available soil moisture is water held between current soil moisture and the permanent wilting point.
- Center pivot systems
  - Early season: Irrigate based on soil moisture reserves needed to meet mid- to late-season demands when the pivot cannot meet ET. Irrigate until the root zone is full or until water has penetrated 2.5 to 3 feet into the soil.
  - Late season: Pivot will not supply sufficient water to keep up with ET, and soil water reserves will be needed.
- Surface systems
  - 1st irrigation should occur when soil moisture declines to 50% at the 0- to 6-inch depth except on sandy soils.
  - Maintain soil moisture levels at or above 50% from tillering to soft dough.

Fertilization

Sampling

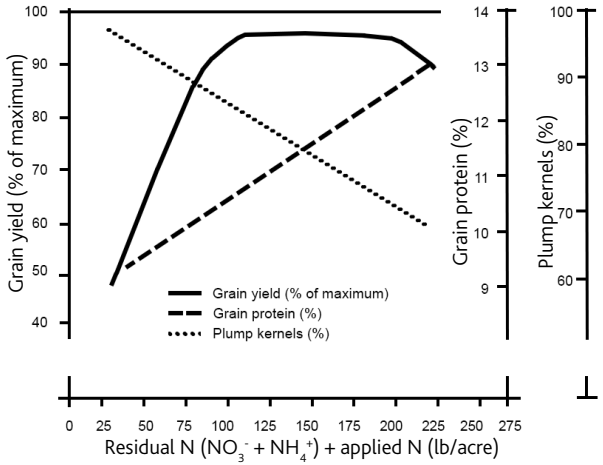
- Soil testing is required to determine optimal nutrient management strategies.
- Timing: 2 weeks prior to planting.
- Depth: to rooting depth (2 feet on most soils)
- Separate samples:
  - 0- to 12-inch and 12- to 24-inch for testing ammonium, nitrate, and sulfur.
  - 0- to 12-inch for other nutritients.

Nitrogen (N)

$$\text{Fertilizer N needed} = \left(\text{N needed based on potential yield} + \text{N needed for residue breakdown}\right) - \left(\text{Mineralizable N} + \text{Soil test N}\right)$$

- N needed based on potential yield estimate = lb N/bu X realistic potential yield estimate.
  - Malt–irrigated: ~1.1 to 2.0 lb N/bu
  - Feed–irrigated: ~1.7 to 2.3 lb N/bu
  - Dryland: ~1.1 to 1.4 lb N/bu
- Crop residues
  - Potato/sugarbeet/onion residue provides N that is accounted for by soil testing.
  - Grain residue has a higher C:N ratio; add 15 lb N per ton of residue returned to the soil, up to 50 lb N/ acre.
  - Alfalfa provides 60 to 80 lb N/acre beyond soil test levels.
- Mineralizable N
  - Typically estimated at 45 lb N/ acre.
  - Conservative estimates range from 30 to 60 lb N/acre.
  - Can exceed 100 lb N/acre at select locations
- Inorganic soil test N: Multiply ppm by 3.6 for lb N/acre.

Grain quality response in malting varieties as a function of nitrogen.



Phosphorus (P)

Phosphorus fertilizer rates based on soil testing.

$NaHCO_3$ soil test P (0–12 inches)	Free lime (%)			
	0	5	10	15
(ppm)	(lb P_2O_5/acre)			
0	240	280	320	360
5	160	200	240	280
10	80	120	160	200
15	0	40	80	120
20	0	0	0	40

Potassium (K)

- With soil test levels of 0 to 75 ppm K, apply 0 to 240 lb/acre K_2O.

Sulfur (S)

- With soil test levels of less than 10 ppm S and low-sulfur irrigation water, apply 20 to 40 lb/acre of S.

Plant growth regulators

- Used to reduce the occurrence of lodging.
- Ethephon (e.g., Cerone): apply during Feekes 7 to 10.
- Trinexapac-ethyl (e.g., Palisade 2EC): apply during Feekes 4 to 7.
- See manufacturer's label for detailed guidelines/instructions.

Diseases

- Most common: scald, root rots, spot blotch, spot form of net blotch, bacterial blight, loose smut, and barley yellow dwarf virus.

Insects

- Most common: aphids, cereal leaf beetle, thrips, Haanchen barley mealybug, wireworms, armyworms, and cutworms.

Weeds

- Most common annual species: wild oat, green foxtail, kochia, common lambsquarters, redroot pigweed, wild buckwheat, and various mustards.
- Most common perennials: Canada thistle and quackgrass.

For more information

Soil Sampling University of Idaho Extension bulletin 704, http://www.cals.uidaho.edu/edComm/pdf/EXT/EXT0704.pdf.

Idaho Spring Barley Production Guide University of Idaho Extension bulletin 742, http://www.cals.uidaho.edu/edComm/pdf/BUL/BUL0742.pdf.

Irrigation Scheduling Using Water-Use Tables University of Idaho Extension CIS 1039, http://www.cals.uidaho.edu/edComm/pdf/CIS/CIS1039.pdf.

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