



MEDIA RELEASE

GIWA welcomes receival standards change for WA barley growers

20 July 2022

Western Australian barley growers are set for a welcome change in the removal of the receival standard for colour from the 2023/24 harvest.

In March 2022, the Grain Industry Association of Western Australia (GIWA) Receival Standards Review Committee called for industry submissions on Receival Standards. Two submissions were received, both calling for a change to the barley colour (brightness) receival standard. After considering these submissions and publishing an Interim Industry Advice Notice, no further submissions were received.

After carefully reviewing barley receival data for all port zones for the past five seasons, the GIWA Receival Standards Review Committee, which has representation from across the entire grain supply chain, concluded there would be no proposed material changes to existing tolerances in the GIWA Western Australia grain standards for the 2022/23 season. But effective from the 2023/24 harvest, the Committee has resolved that grain colour will be removed from the WA grain receival standards for barley.

Grain colour is a measure of the whiteness of the kernel and was first introduced in Western Australia to provide our barley growers with a market advantage in the middle east and for brewing. At the time, key malting and brewing customers of Western Australian grain preferred our bright kernels, as darker kernels sourced from non-Australian origin were often linked with poor storability, enhanced dormancy, risk of poor germination, and inferior brewing performance.

Lyndon Mickel, GIWA Chair, GIWA Barley Council Chair, and a grower of 30 years experience from Beaumont northeast of Esperance, knows all too well the importance of receival standards to customers, industry, and growers.

“The validity of using colour as a receival standard for barley has been debated for many years and has been the subject of multiple submissions to the GIWA Receival Standards Committee over the years” says Lyndon.

“Rain at harvest can cause darkening of the kernel and cause affected barley to fail to meet MALT1 grade. This is a significant problem for growers, particularly those in the higher rainfall areas.”

“But while many of our past customers preferred the aesthetics of bright kernels, there has been a gradual change with the vast majority of barley contracts now no longer containing colour as a contract specification. “

“So, when the GIWA Receival Standards Review Committee recently analysed the last five years of barley receivals across all port zones and determined that the proportion of barley that had failed to achieve MALT1 due to colour (brightness) alone was insignificant as a percentage of total malt barley grade receivals, the Committee resolved to drop colour entirely as a receival standard.”

“But to provide an adequate lead time for any existing barley contracts that may contain a colour specification to be executed, there will be no change to 2022/23 harvest receival standards. Colour will be removed as a receival standard entirely effective from the 2023/24 harvest,” said Lyndon.

“Growers will be pleased with this news, especially those in higher rainfall areas impacted most by the current colour standard.”

It is noted that the CBH Group may continue to measure colour on delivery; however, it will not form part of receival standards beyond the 2022/23 harvest.

GIWA also recognises that research to accurately determine the impact of factors such as Falling Number, germ end staining, moisture and temperature on barley storability for malting purposes remains a priority, and the GIWA Barley Council will work with Grains Australia, Grain Trade Australia and the Grains Research and Development Corporation to secure funding to undertake this research.

For background and more information on the GIWA Standards Review Process, please view the [Final Industry Advice Notice on the GIWA Website](#).

GIWA Receival Standards Review Committee

The Standards Review Committee is reviewed and reappointed each December by the GIWA Board. To ensure transparency in the process and meaningful input, GIWA welcomes individuals with a strong interest in the WA grain industry to express their interest in being on the GIWA Receival Standards Review Committee.

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Media Enquiries:

GIWA

Lyndon Mickel
GIWA Chair and GIWA Barley Council Chair
0427 766 029

GIWA

Peter Nash
GIWA Executive Officer
PNash@giwa.org.au
0413 032 654 or 08 6262 2128