

Viking Malt Barley Newsletter May 2017

General: Barley market for crop 2017 still with very stable price level but weather this spring has not been optimal for malting barley in many regions. The weather and its possible impact on harvest in the coming months will greatly affect the further price development as carry over from crop 2016 is very limited.

Sweden: **South:** Seeding finally completed first week of May after more than month of fields works. Spring barley probably 10-14 days later than normal. Most fields have had good amounts of rain after drilling. Crops in general developing slowly due to low temperatures but somewhat warmer weather expected the next couple of days.

West:

Drilling still going on heavier soils in the most northern part of the region. A lot of the barley seeded under good conditions at about normal time. Winter and spring crops could do with some rain since no huge amounts during the spring.

East:

Drilling basically completed even if there still might be some fields on heavier clay left to drill since soil still too wet. Region has in general very low levels of ground water but sowing conditions overall good with good moisture. From now on some rain is needed. Night frost challenging especially the spring crops. General opinion is that damages looking worse than they really are.

Around Lake of Mälaren:

90% seeded. Soil conditions in general good. Still very cold during some nights challenging the crops and maybe especially first drilled spring barley (see picture). Still a little bit early to say if the most affected fields will recover or have to be reseeded.



Denmark: Sowing of spring barley is completed – only few fields are still to be prepared. Although we might feel that this spring has been cold, the recorded average temperatures in March and April have more or less been at 10-year average level. Soil moisture levels are generally good and the weather forecast for Denmark for the coming days is also optimistic with expected moderate temperatures and more rain showers to come. A good crop development is expected.

Finland: Snowfall May 11 tells all about the exceptional cold spring in Finland this year. First spring works in southern areas started in the beginning of May but very slowly due to the cold weather, snowfalls and night frosts. Sowings will start with full swing during the following weekend as weather is forecasted to warm up at least a little bit. Sowings are late 1-2 weeks in major malting barley growing areas and more in central and northern parts of the country which still have snow coverage. Some changes to the sowing plans between the crops expected due to the lateness but should favor barley as an early crop. We trust that barley has still time to



mature and although we've already used to early springs in Finland, this is not actually an unusual sowing time in polar area if you look at it in the long run.

Poland:

This April was the coldest April for 14 years. Cold, rains and little sunshine caused vegetation of plants to slow down considerably. The weather in the first 10 days of May was also unfavorable, decreasing temperatures and night frosts threaten the condition of crops. This may have a significant impact on the size of the crop. Large soil humidity and air temperature below 10 degrees C have a significant effect on the delay of agronomic treatments in cereal crops.

Winter barley is in BBCH 41 -47 phase (Flag leaf sheath extending - Flag leaf sheath opening), depending on weather conditions. Moderate illness - in some places net blotch is founded but in small scale. Farmers are waiting for warmer weather to start with fungicides to protect the ears.

Now spring barley is in GS30 phase what is the beginning of stalking faze. Compared to the last year, the development of the plant is delayed by about 2 weeks. Cold nights, frosts, many days with low temperatures, less rainfall cause this state of plant development. Farmers are waiting for warmer weather to start with fungicides and growth regulator.



Lithuania:

For farmers in Lithuania is too early to get complaining about the future crop. Most of the planting was done although there was a delay with sowing by a week due to low temperature and rainy weather conditions. Soil moisture was sufficient when putting crops to the ground, but frost during the nights and cold temperatures slows down development of spring barley. Farmers remain optimistic and hope to catch up on vegetation as well warmer weather prospects soon.

