

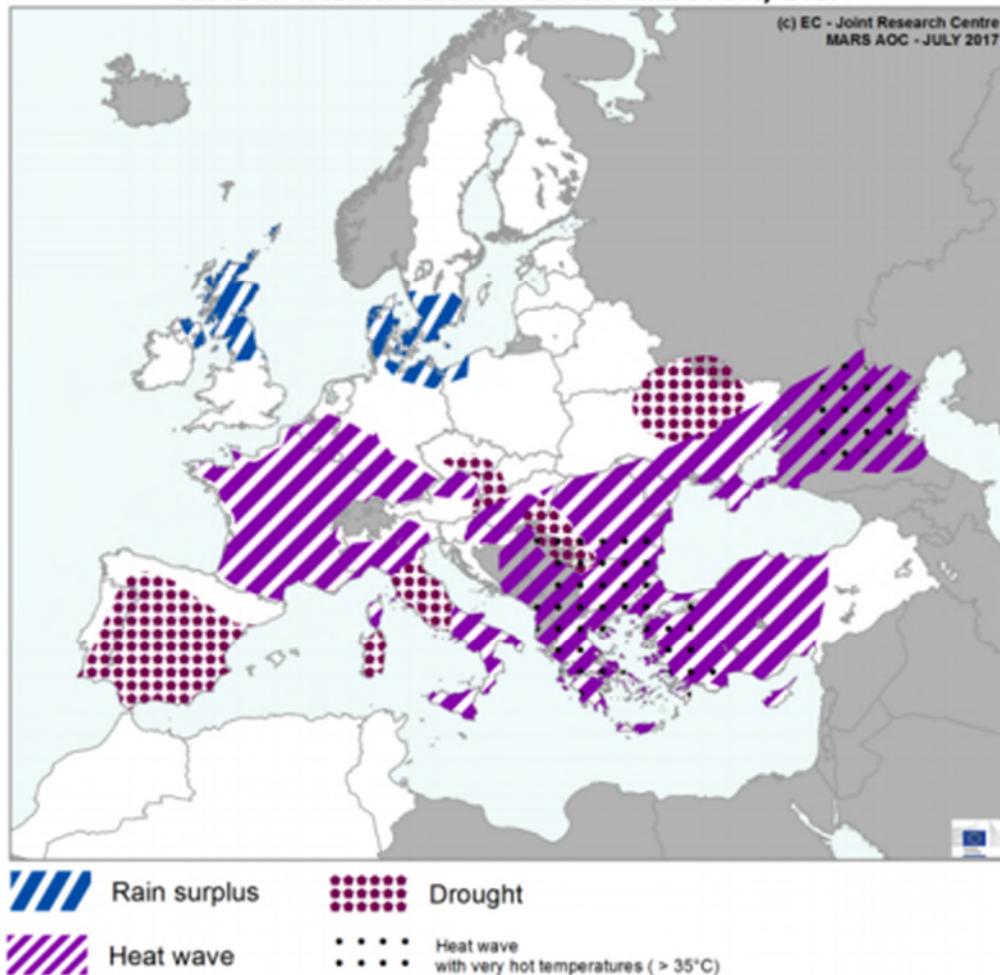
Viking Malt Barley Newsletter August 2017

General: The crop 2017 European malting barley harvest is heavily influenced of different weather phenome's – from drought to flooding and from heat waves to cold weather. This has influenced both the growing season and now also the harvest situation. As the estimated balances for spring malting barley in Europe are tight - the crops in UK and Scandinavia - still out on the fields are really needed – but weather is delaying harvest, impacting barley quality on the fields and as harvest is getting later also the quality risk is increasing. There is mainly still a good crop standing out on the fields but the weather gods will decide if we get it safely in the barns.

Areas of Concern: Source: European Commission – DG JRC

AREAS OF CONCERN - EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

Based on weather data from 1 June until 30 July 2017



**Sweden:**

Slowly we are getting to closer to the harvest also in Sweden.

In the south of Sweden, weather in July has been rather unstable with many showers. Crops have been developing rather slowly and more affected then normal by diseases. Finally, farmers started their harvest of winter rapeseed this week but cutting is proceeding slowly since there are some kind of rain more or less on a daily basis.

Middle parts of Sweden have had less rain than normal during July. We believe that this might affect the spring crops to a higher degree than the winter crops.

In general, cutting of the main crops will start 7-10 day later than normal. Depending on the weather at harvest time, this might affect the quality at some stage. Later harvest will probably also affect the seeding of winter crops. As it looks today, it is more probable with a reduction than an increase in the acreage of winter wheat and winter rapeseed crop 2018 compared to crop 2017.

South: Farmers are about to harvest winter rapeseed but some rain passing more or less every day is delaying the harvest. Cutting of first winter wheat fields and spring barley fields might take place during the next week, weather permitting. Propino seems to be a little bit earlier than Planet. It will last ten more days before more general cutting of malting barley

West: Winter barley harvested with very good yield. Harvest of winter rapeseed and earliest wheat one week away. We are optimistic about the yields for winter wheat but at the best normal yields in spring crops due to dry summer.

East: Very dry summer enabling first cuttings of earliest winter wheat varieties. We fear lower yields and higher protein than normal in the malting barley. First cuttings of winter wheat rather normal in protein so remains to be seen if this is also the case for the malting barley.

Around Lake of Mälaren: Last month has been rather dry so crops developing rather fast during July. First cuttings of earliest winter rapeseed and winter wheat fields has started. Farmers eager to get rid of some winter wheat to be able to plant winter rapeseed. More general cutting of winter wheat by middle of August. Harvest of spring malting barley then to follow. July has been dry so yield expectations for spring crops lower today then one month ago.



Picture Propino South Sweden 4th August

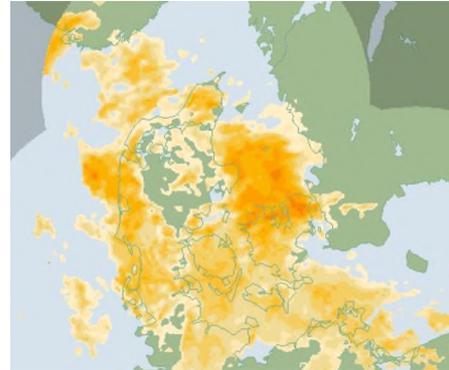
First harvest result for 2 RW

Variety	Moisture [%]	Protein [%]	Sieving >2.5mm [%]	Germination capacity [%]
KWS Joy 2RW	13,7	11,4	88	99

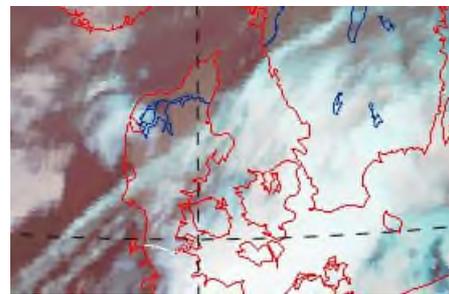


Denmark:

Harvest of spring barley has still not started in Denmark. Crop development is approximately 2 weeks late compared to average – whatever that is these days! The weather in July was unusual cold and wet and only in the very end of the month we managed to see a real summer day with temperatures above 25° C. Also, here early August rain and thunderstorms are seen more or less every day. We are now hoping for dry and warm weather with some soft wind to dry up the fields.



Barley fields are still generally looking good and dense and they are not too effected from the rain in terms of lodging. Considering the moderate temperatures and ever-changing shift from sun to rain the past weeks growing conditions have been close to ideal and good yields should be expected with low/moderate protein level. Concerns for pre-germination and fusarium attack are still not big but if conditions do not improve soon damage will occur. Let's hope for favorable harvest conditions the coming weeks...



This is how Denmark often looked like from above the past weeks



Finland:

The cold spring was followed by cold summer, especially in Eastern and Northern parts of Finland. In main malting barley growing areas effective temperature sum has developed at the same pace with the cold crop season 2015. Barley fields are looking very nice and tense at the moment and expectation is for the better than average yields if the weather conditions are favorable for the rest of the crop season.

Still, the crop development is approximately 2 weeks late from the average and harvest is expected to start not early than beginning of September.

Warm and sunny autumn is needed and the weather pattern for next weeks is providing rain and thunder which the crops need to solve first without lodging.



**Poland:**

In July, Polish farmers began harvesting winter barley, frequent rains extended during the course of the harvest and affected it delay. Plantations on lighter soils were harvested first. There was a visible impact of water scarcity that occurred in June. This had an effect on the deterioration of the harvested winter barley, and therefore some of the winter barley crop was disqualified. The greatest harvest delay occurs in the NW and NE regions of Poland. At present, the level of winter barley harvest is there at the level of 10%, the biggest concern is the quality of the grain remaining in the field. In the SE and SW regions of Poland harvest of winter barley was completed, according to preliminary estimates obtained yields were up to 6 mt / ha but unfortunately there was in the end a lot of lots disqualified as malting barley.

The first days of August brought a diametric change of weather, the heat wave that passes through Poland with temperatures up to 38 degrees allowed farmers to accelerate the spring barley harvest and reduced further losses on grain quality. Simultaneously with the change of weather storms connected with torrential rains, hail and gales occurred what poses a high threat to the crop. Quality results so far showing good results so far – see table below



Picture: Harvest of Charles in South Poland

According to preliminary data, the level of spring barley harvest in different areas at 02.08.2017 is:

- North-West Poland: 0%
- North- East Poland: 0%
- South- West Poland 60%
- South-East Poland 38%

First Harvest results (2RW and 2RS), grown in Poland Crop 2017:

Variety	Moisture [%]	Protein [%]	Sieving >2.5mm [%]	Germination capacity [%]
Charles, null-lox	12,3	10,5	91	100
Explorer 2RS	13,1	11,1	88	100
Ida 2RW	13,7	10,9	95	99
Malwinta 2RW	13,4	10,4	88	99
Planet 2RS	12,9	10,0	88	99
Propino 2RS	12,0	11,7	93	98
Irina 2RS	11,9	9,2	85	100



Lithuania:

In Lithuania barley have been continuing the steady vegetation during July and continue in the beginning of August. After rather cold and wet July with temperatures of 3-4 C below average ripening is getting slower causing the harvest postponement by at least two weeks.

However, rather wet weather conditions start putting crops under the pressure for quality and barley harvesting. Over the last ten days lots of rain (60-85mm) has come to majority part of malting barley growing areas in the north part of Lithuania. Even more (85-110mm) on the southern part of the country.



Picture: Field on 20th of July

Despite the fact that fields are looking rather good so far the rainfall needs to stop for harvest. Couple of dry weeks would allow to get a good quality and yields.



Picture: Field on 27th of July

