



University of Maryland WMREC Hops and Crops Variety Trials Western Maryland Research and Education Center

In an effort to support the new and rapidly growing brewing industry in Maryland, **24 varieties of hops, 4 varieties of barley and 1 variety of rye** have been established on over 20 acres at the University of Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station in Keedysville, Maryland. Although not the first hops planting on a research farm, this planting is about ½ acre and contains 24 varieties replicated three times and is being managed intensively with regard to fertility, irrigation, as well as insect, disease and weed management using IPM principles. Current varieties in the trial;

Planted May 2016: **Alpharoma, Cascade, Centennial, Chinook, Crystal, Mt. Hood, Mt. Ranier, Nugget, Sorachi Ace, Southern Cross, Tahoma, and Ultra.**

Planted in 2017: **Canadian Red Vine, Galena, Glacier, Amallia, Neo 1, New Port, Multi Head, Southern Brewer, Teamaker VF, Willamette, Vojvodina, and Zeus.**

The barley and rye plots consist of four commercially available varieties of barley (Fall planted-**Scala 2** row, **SY Tepee 2** row, and **Thoroughbred 6** row, as well as rye *VNS*). The spring planted barley variety, **AAC Synergy 2** row, will be planted in April). Each variety is planted in four acre blocks at the WMREC farm to examine the potential for Maryland grain farmers to profitably grow small grains for the emerging local alcohol producing industries. The blocks are being managed intensively with regard to both fertility and pest management, and will be harvested dried, cleaned and bagged and given to the new local malt houses to evaluate the quality of the grain. The grain will also be sent to the Michigan State Grain Testing lab to analytically evaluate the quality. All records for pesticide applications, fertility and handling will be made available as soon as it is acquired.

Now that the planting is established, University of Maryland Extension would like to work closely with the growers and brewers to meet the needs of the industry. We look forward to providing research based information and hope to focus these efforts with the guidance from the industry to ensure UME is doing the most relevant research possible.

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