

# Varietal Purity

A Cornerstone of Canada's Malting Barley Value Proposition



**Varietal purity is a cornerstone of premium malting barley.**



**Malting and grain companies buying malting barley require a minimum 95% varietal purity specification on malting barley deliveries.**



**Producers have an important role in ensuring varietal purity in Canadian malting barley.**

## **CANADA'S QUALITY BRAND**

*Varietal purity to end-users is critical to Canada's premium value proposition.*

Canada's reputation for quality malting and malted barley is our brand. It is based on our world-class malting barley varieties, safe and efficient production methods, and robust quality assurance systems.

## **IMPORTANCE OF VARIETAL PURITY TO MALTSTERS**

Maltsters require malting barley with a high percentage of varietal purity to make a consistent, high-quality finished product. Each malting barley variety has different barley quality and malting performance characteristics.

## **IMPACT OF INSUFFICIENT VARIETAL PURITY ON PRODUCERS**

Grain and malting companies are increasingly using genetic testing to confirm varietal purity in samples delivered by producers.

Samples of malting barley that are found to have less than the minimum 95% varietal purity are likely to be discounted, eroding malting premiums over feed, or may be rejected for malt.



**Producers may be discounted if varietal purity is less than 95%, eroding premiums for malting barley.**

## MAINTAINING VARIETAL PURITY ON THE FARM

Producers can take steps to ensure the malting barley they are growing meets varietal purity thresholds required by the industry.

- **Using certified seed is one of the best ways to ensure varietal purity.** Avoid the use of common seed for malting barley production.

**Producers can also use farm-saved seed. By employing good practices, producers can maintain the quality and lessen the risk of declining varietal purity of farm-saved seed.**

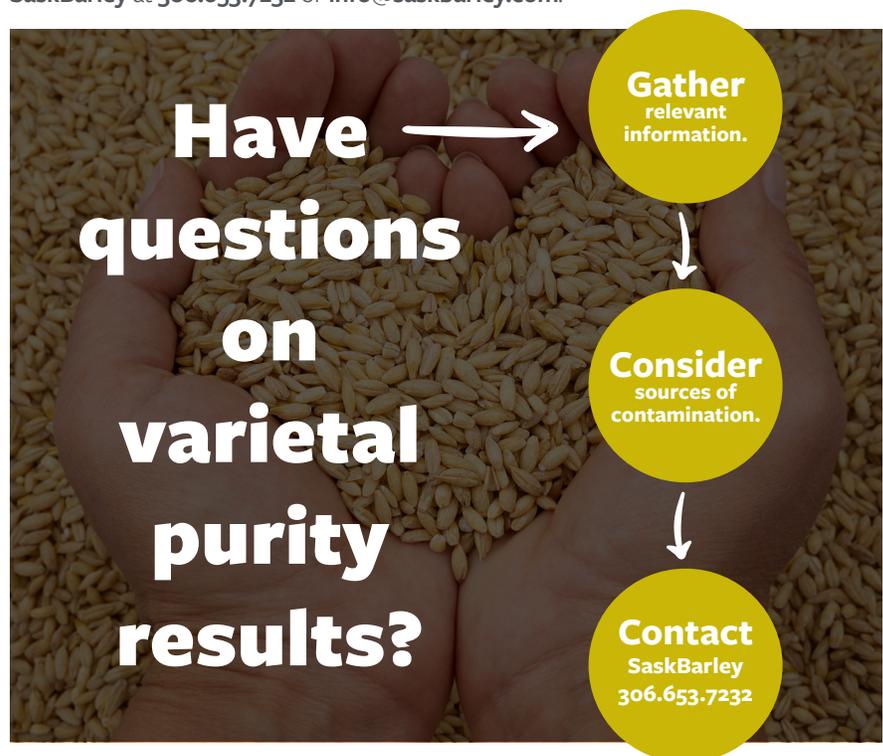
- Know what variety you have in your bin
- Consider testing farm saved seed for varietal purity before seeding
- Varietal purity can be confirmed for most varieties by genetic tests at SGS Labs in Saskatoon
- Use crop rotation to eliminate volunteer barley
- Wait at least two years before growing barley on the same field, especially if there are two or more malting barley varieties
- Clean trucks, augers, seed tanks, grain bins and combines between fields
- When transitioning to a new variety, or if multiple varieties are grown on farm, implement good storage management
- Ensure varieties are kept separate and clearly labelled

## KNOW BEFORE YOU SELL

Varietal purity test results take time. Producers should determine how varietal purity results can be arbitrated prior to delivery or as soon as possible after delivery of their malting barley.

Varietal purity is a contractual obligation, outside of the Canadian grading system, and not subject to a binding decision from the Canadian Grain Commission. Consideration could be given to delaying delivery of malting barley until after varietal purity results are available to ensure best marketing options.

Malting barley grown from certified seed, especially where only one variety is grown on a farm, has a low likelihood of varietal purity falling below 95%. If the potential for purity loss is low and you have concerns over your varietal purity test results, **please contact SaskBarley at 306.653.7232 or info@saskbarley.com.**



## VARIETAL PURITY TESTS

- Costs range between \$235 - \$600 at SGS in Saskatoon
- 92 seed test provides accuracy within 3-4% for varietal purity
- For improved accuracy use 368 seed test
- Be sure to enlist appropriate sampling procedures on farm
- Testing is also offered at Canadian Grain Commission but it is more expensive
- Save a sample of seed from each field or seed lot for testing if needed

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

CGSA Seed Locator: <https://seedlocator.net/>  
CFIA: <https://inspection.canada.ca/> (search "PBR")  
SGS: <https://www.sgs.ca/> (search "Barley Testing")  
CGC: <https://www.grainscanada.gc.ca/en/> (search "Barley Testing")  
CSGA What is Certified Seed?: <https://seedgrowers.ca/seed-growers/what-is-canadian-certified-seed/>

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or follow us on twitter: @SaskBarley 