



# Australian barley

## Quality, safety, and reliability

Australian barley is sought after worldwide for its excellent quality and performance for malting, brewing, distilling and animal feed.





# A reputation for quality

Australian barley has an excellent reputation globally for malt production, mostly for beer brewing and distilling.

Australian barley is highly regarded for its:

- Moderate protein
- Plumpness and brightness
- Low moisture content (long storage viability)
- Low screenings (cleanliness)
- High hectolitre weight
- High germination rate and excellent malting performance

## Malting barley varieties

Australian grain breeding organisations develop new barley varieties that are high yielding, agronomically well adapted and have specific malting and brewing qualities that meet customer requirements.

New malting barley varieties in Australia undergo a rigorous evaluation process before gaining malt accreditation. Breeders screen new varieties for key agronomic traits and disease resistance. Once a variety progresses beyond this breeding evaluation stage, it enters Grains Australia’s classification system, where it undergoes comprehensive assessment of malting and brewing quality and its suitability for commercial processing.

Grains Australia sets the accreditation standard and manages Australia’s malting barley evaluation process through the Malting and Brewing Industry Barley Technical Committee (MBIBTC). Each malting barley variety displays different agronomic traits which suit particular growing conditions, while also meeting quality requirements for end-products. Varieties also undergo both pilot and commercial-scale malting, as well as pilot brewing, to assist accreditation.

Australian malting barley varieties:

- Compass
- Commodus CL
- Cyclops
- La Trobe
- Laperouse
- Maximus CL
- Minotaur
- Neo CL
- RGT Planet
- Spartacus CL

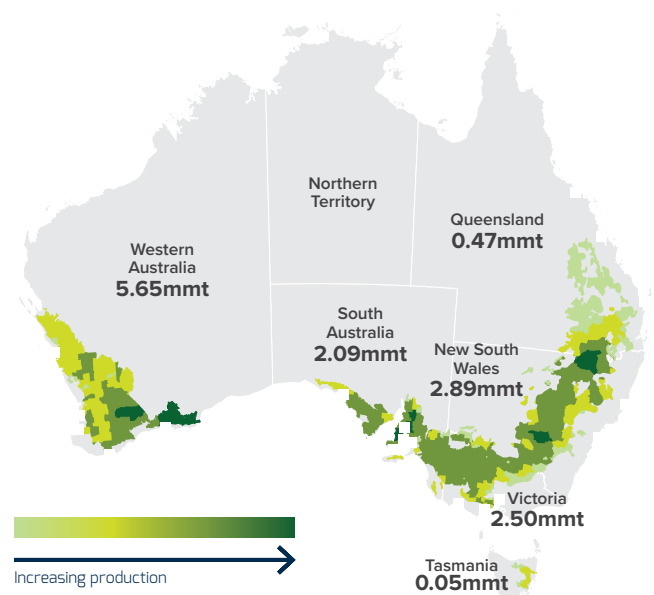
For the full list of all accredited varieties, please visit [grainsaustralia.com.au](http://grainsaustralia.com.au)

## Barley production in Australia

Australia produces on average 13.6 million metric tonnes (mmt) of barley across 4.7 million hectares. 30–40% is delivered as malting barley, with the remainder used for stock feed or human consumption.

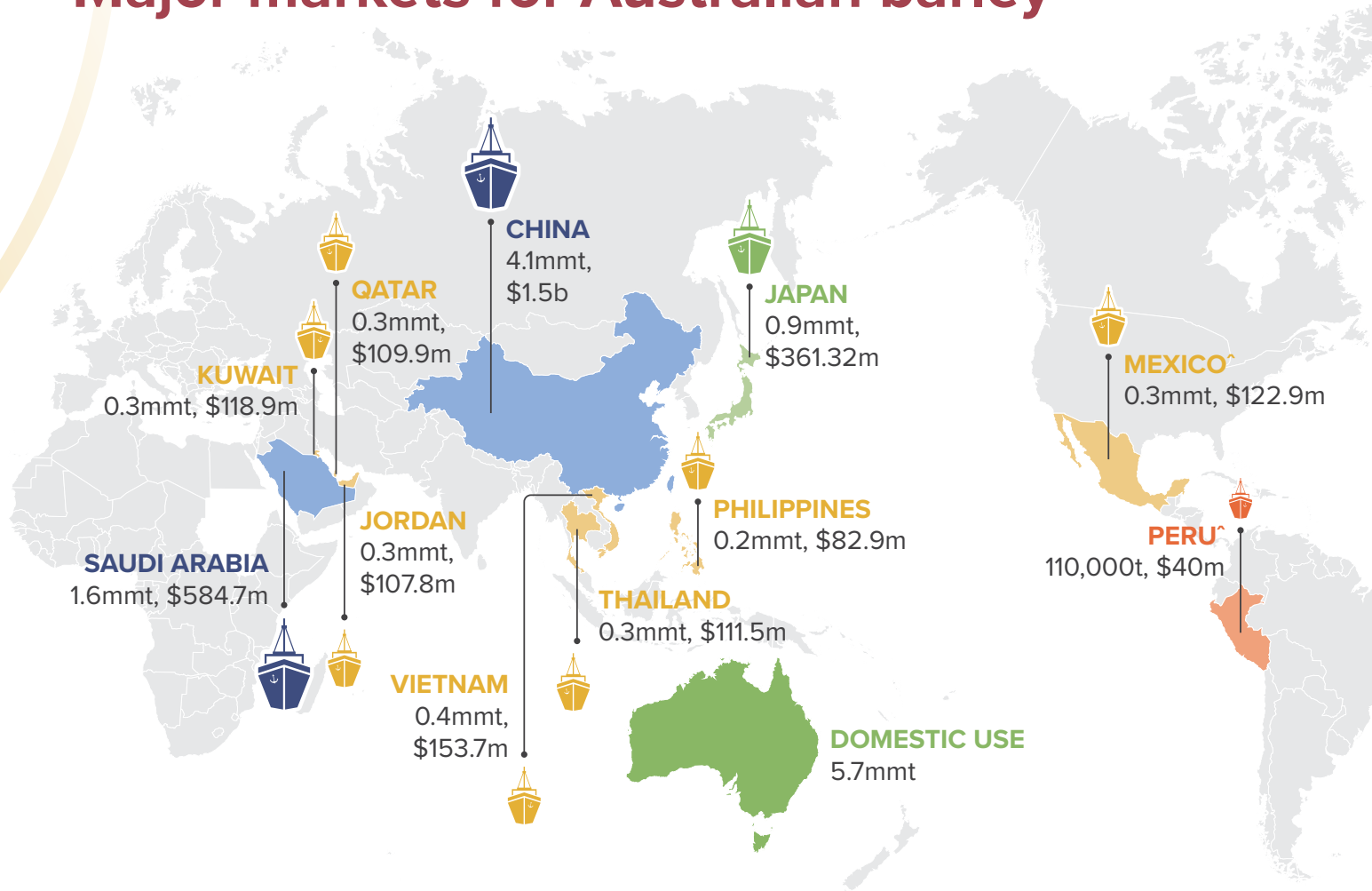
Growing through Australia’s winter and spring months, barley is rotated with other crops including wheat, canola, oats and pulses.

Harvest begins in the country’s northern regions during late October and early November. The harvesting season usually finishes during December in Australia’s southern areas.



Source: ABARES five year average to 2025/26 (mmt)

# Major markets for Australian barley



Total average exports

**\$2.87b | 7.6mmt**

Malting barley exports

**\$563m | 1.4mmt**

Feed barley exports

**\$2.29b | 6.13mmt**

Sources: Exports based on ABS data (five year average to 2025)  
Domestic use data: ABARES. \$ = AUD



**30-40%**

of the world's malting barley is supplied by Australia\*

\*Prior to 2019



**20-30%**

of the world's feed barley is supplied by Australia



**55-70%**

of Australia's total barley production is exported each year

# Australian malting barley for brewing and distilling

Australian malting barley is sought-after around the world for beer production and for the distillation of spirits such as malt whiskey and Japanese shochu.

Australian malting barley varieties are versatile and suit a variety of processing requirements and beer styles.

With a high germination rate and uniform malting characteristics, Australian barley produces malt with an excellent level of extract and a range of enzyme levels to suit different beer production styles and other end-products.

## Australian barley for animal feed

Australian barley is well suited for animal feed, including all types of poultry, dairy, pigs, sheep and goats. Australian feed barley is very low in mycotoxin contamination with good nutritional attributes and energy content. Australian barley has higher fibre than some other feed grains, which can be beneficial for gut development and function.



## Supporting customers of Australian barley

In collaboration with the Australian barley industry, Grains Australia conducts in-market and laboratory research to ensure the Australian industry understands and can meet customer requirements.

Grains Australia publishes malt performance summaries, offering analytical malt data that can help guide the Australian industry and its customers on the anticipated quality outputs of malting barley varieties.

We also provide technical support and education to customers across the world on the benefits of Australian barley for malting and animal feed. Grains Australia's virtual and in-person seminars are very popular with customers seeking updates on the current barley harvest and how to optimise the value of Australian barley.

# Trusted support for Australia's grain customers






Grains Australia was established to streamline vital services for the Australian grains industry and its customers under one organisation.

We lead a Team Australia approach, collaborating across the grains value chain to prioritise projects that deliver maximum value for growers, industry and customers.

**Our work helps ensure customers have access to high quality Australian grain, and the support needed to maximise its value.**

[grainsaustralia.com.au](http://grainsaustralia.com.au)

## One organisation delivering vital services

-  Trade and market access
-  Classification
-  Market insights
-  Market education
-  Technical market solutions