



# Spring Barley

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Spring barley plays a vital role in Irish agriculture, thanks to its compatibility with the country's climate and soil conditions. Grown on around 120,000 hectares each year, it is a key component in crop rotation systems, enhancing soil health and helping manage pests.

This versatile crop supports several markets, including animal feed, malting and distilling, making it a significant contributor to the farming sector. Its straw is also highly valued, offering growers an extra source of income. For the 2026 season, a variety of recommended spring barley varieties are available, each with distinct traits in terms of yield, disease resistance and grain quality—providing options to suit a range of farming practices.

Achieving high yields in spring barley largely depends on ear numbers. Unlike wheat or winter barley, it doesn't benefit from very early sowing. The best results are achieved when seeds are planted into warm soil, enabling germination and emergence within two weeks. Quick establishment and early canopy closure help reduce moisture loss from the soil and improve competitiveness against weeds.

Effective agronomy focuses on maintaining standing crops until harvest and avoiding high seed rates that may hinder this.

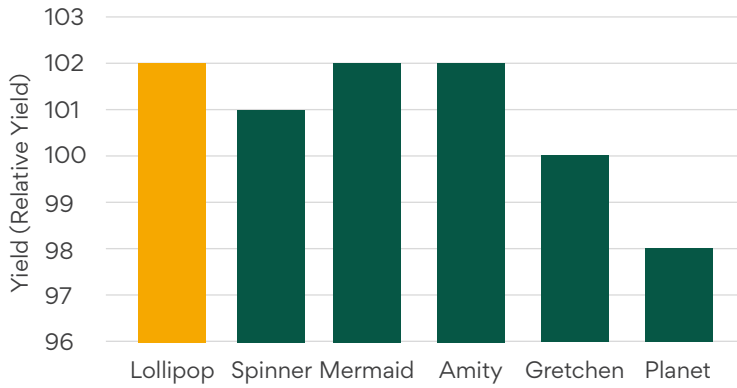
# Spring Barley Varieties

## Lollipop

Hits the Sweetspot for yield

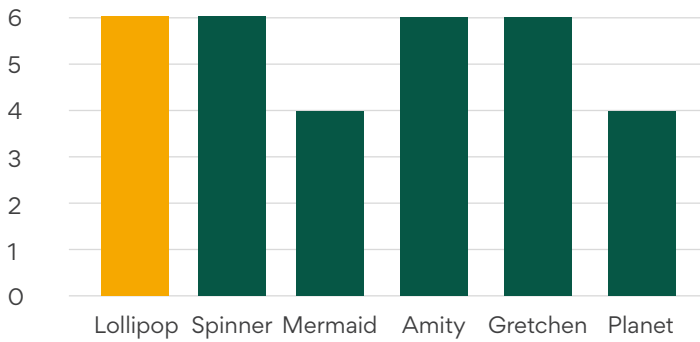
Breeder: **Nordic Seed**  
 Parentage: Laureate x Planet

### DAFM Recommended List 2026 Yield

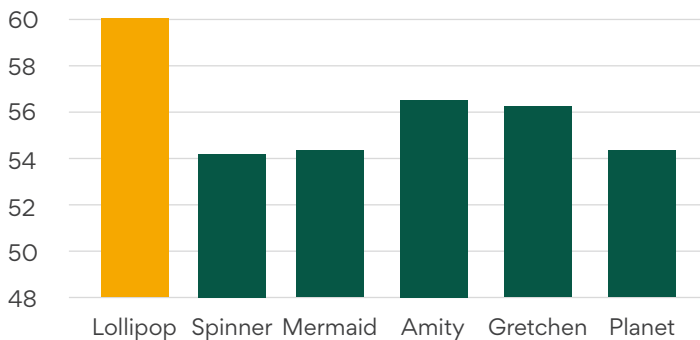


Source: DAFM recommended list

### Straw Breakdown RL 2026



### 1000 Grain Weight (TGW) RL 2026



### Key Points

- ✓ Very high yielding variety.
- ✓ Yield rating 102 DAFM Recommended List 2026.
- Consistent high yield performance
  - 2025 RLT 106
  - 2024 RLT 106
  - 2023 RLT 104
  - 2022 RLT 107

### Lollipop agronomic details

Plant height	70.3 cm
Resistance to lodging	5
Straw breakdown	6
Earliness of ripening	6

### Lollipop grain quality

Thousand grain weight	60g
Hectolitre weight	66.9
Screenings	1.0

### Lollipop plant health scores

Mildew	8
Rhynchosporium	8
Brown rust	6
Net blotch	8



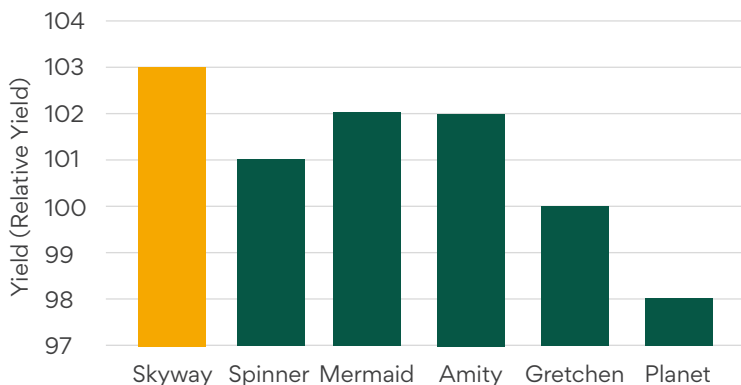
# Spring Barley Varieties

## Skyway

The SKY is the limit

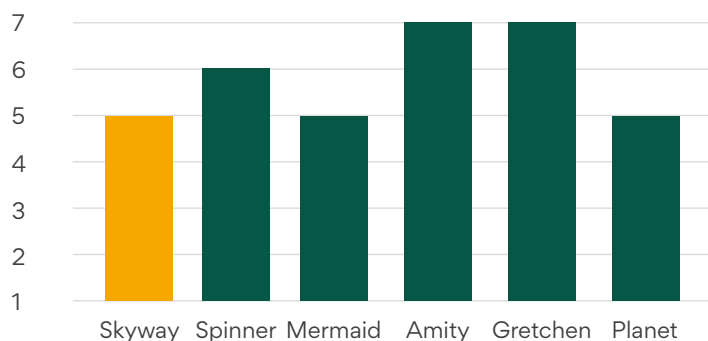
Breeder: **Nordic Seed**  
 Parentage: Planet x NOS 2105-11

### DAFM Recommended List 2026 Yield

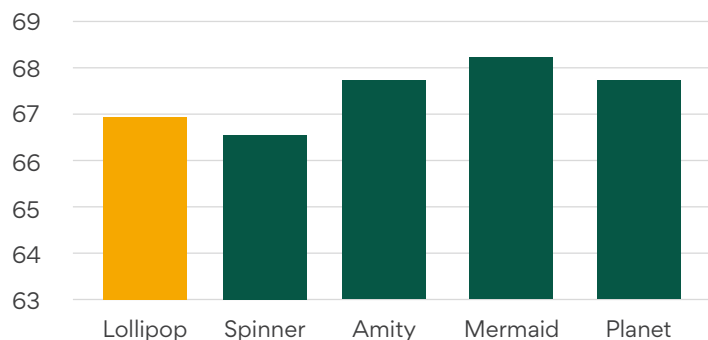


Source: DAFM recommended list

### Lodging Resistance



### Hectolitre Weight Kg/Hl



### Key Points

- ✓ Very high yielding variety.
- ✓ Yield rating 103 DAFM Recommended List 2026.
- Consistent high yield performance
  - 2025 RLT 105
  - 2024 RLT 105
  - 2023 RLT 103
  - 2022 RLT 108

### Skyway agronomic details

Plant height	73.1 cm
Resistance to lodging	5
Straw breakdown	4
Earliness of ripening	5

### Skyway grain quality

Thousand grain weight	54.4g
Hectolitre weight	68.5
Screenings	1.2

### Skyway plant health scores

Mildew	8
Rhynchosporium	7
Brown rust	6
Net blotch	6



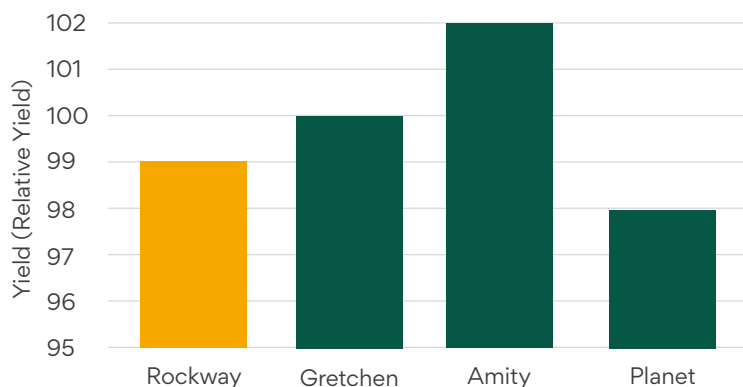
# Spring Barley Varieties

## Rockway

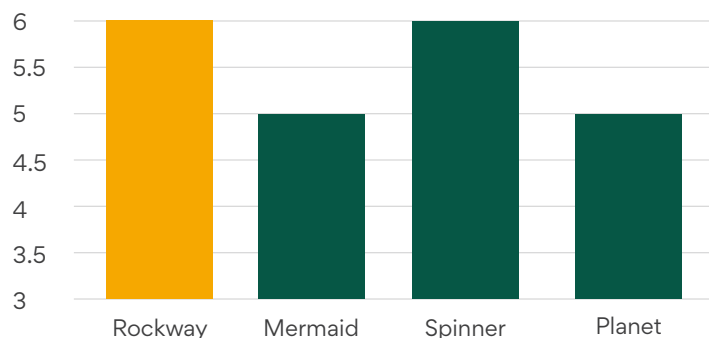
Rock solid yields

Breeder: **Nordic Seed**  
 Parentage: Planet x NOS 215-11

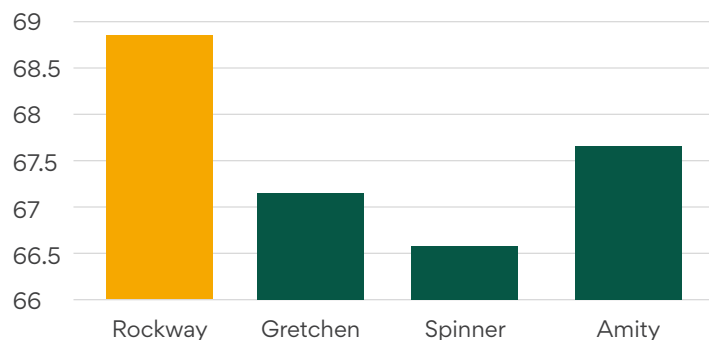
DAFM Recommended List 2026 Yield



DAFM Recommended List 2026 Lodging Resistance



DAFM Recommended List 2026 Hectolitre Weight Kg/Hl



### Key Points

- ✓ A high yielding variety.
- ✓ Yield rating 99 DAFM Recommended List 206.
- Excellent & consistent yield performance
  - 2025 RLT 102
  - 2024 RLT 103
  - 2023 RLT 99
  - 2022 RLT 104

### Rockway agronomic details

Plant height	74.2 cm
Resistance to lodging	6
Straw breakdown	6
Earliness of ripening	5

### Rockway grain quality

Thousand grain weight	54.7g
Hectolitre weight	68.7
Screenings	1.1

### Rockway plant health scores

Mildew	8
Rhynchosporium	7
Brown rust	6
Net blotch	6

Source: DAFM recommended list



# Spring Barley Seeding Rates

Sowing Date		Spring Barley		
		Mid-March	Late-March	Mid-April
Target Plants/m <sup>2</sup>		325	350	350
% Establishment		85%	85%	85%
Check individual labels for TGW	TGW	kg/ha	kg/ha	kg/ha
	44	168	181	181
	46	176	189	189
	48	184	198	198
	50	191	206	206
	52	199	214	214
	54	206	222	222
	56	214	231	231
	58	222	239	239
	60	229	247	247

Sowing Date		Spring Barley		
		Mid-March	Late-March	Mid-April
Target Plants/m <sup>2</sup>		325	350	350
% Establishment		85%	85%	85%
Check individual labels for TGW	TGW	st/ac	st/ac	st/ac
	44	10.7	11.5	11.5
	46	11.2	12.1	12.1
	48	11.7	12.6	12.6
	50	12.2	13.1	13.1
	52	12.7	13.6	13.6
	54	13.2	14.2	14.2
	56	13.6	14.7	14.7
	58	14.1	15.2	15.2
	60	14.6	15.7	15.7