

## CEREALS

# Exciting new spring barley to transform yields

This spring PGG Wrightson Grain will release SY Transformer into the market as a replacement to Sanette barley.

**“W**e have been looking for a new spring barley for a couple of seasons now,” says Nick Brooks, the company’s grain product development manager.

SY Transformer comes from Syngenta’s world leading spring barley breeding programme in Europe.

It was initially brought to and trialled in New Zealand by head licensee Cropmark Seeds; only small quantities of commercial seed were available last year.

While good seed production areas were planted last spring, due to the challenging weather and quality issues, PGG Wrightson Grain anticipate reduced volumes will be available this spring.

Hopefully 2023 should see greater volumes available.

“While it is early days commercially, we anticipate SY Transformer will become the highest yielding dual purpose (feed, distilling/malting grain and silage) spring barley,” Nick says.

“It did very well in FAR trials last year

**Dual purpose, with plenty of potential, the new cultivar comes from a world-leading breeding programme in Europe.**



and this year, either topping or appearing in the top group for both autumn and spring barley trials.”

Nick is also excited about its malting and distilling potential.

While it’s not commercially grown overseas, it has very good parents (RGT Planet/Laureate).

“We still need another harvest to confirm this as well as allowing potential end users to get comfortable,” he adds.

“I didn’t think that we would see new barley cultivars so soon after the release of RGT Planet and SY Silhouette, but it just shows you the strength of the European barley programmes and the adaptation to the NZ environment.

“All our spring barley cultivars such as RGT Planet, Laureate, SY Transformer, along with the proven older cultivar Tavern, will make a group of top performing barleys that are hard to beat in NZ.”

PGG Wrightson Grain has a world class research and development programme that every year tests well over 1000 new elite lines from its own breeding programme and overseas breeding companies.

“From this large pool of diverse germplasm and the extensive effort that goes into testing them, we are able to select lines with superior adaptation to the NZ environment,” Nick explains.

**Looking forward to the release – from left, Nick Brooks; cereal agronomist Ashley Harrison, and cereal seed manager Ian Ormondy.**

“This means we are not reliant on just testing overseas cultivars that have been developed for a different set of environmental conditions.”

For more detail phone 0508 472 467, email [cerealseeds@pggwrightsongrain.co.nz](mailto:cerealseeds@pggwrightsongrain.co.nz) or contact your local merchant. 📞

## SY TRANSFORMER - KEY FEATURES

- Highest yielding spring barley in FAR CPT trials (4-year means)
- Well suited to all sowing times and conditions for both autumn and spring
- Good all-round disease resistance profile, especially mildew and net blotch
- Medium to high tillering ability
- Medium height and moderate to stiff straw
- Large grain, average test weights and very low screenings