

Buccaneer

WINTER BARLEY

The highest
yielding winter
malting barley
on the market

Contents

1 VARIETY OVERVIEW

2 YIELD

3 DISEASE RESISTANCE

4 AGRONOMICS

5 END-MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

6 ELSOMS

7 OUR ARABLE TEAM

AHDB
RECOMMENDED



1 VARIETY OVERVIEW

Buccaneer is the UK's leading two-row winter malting variety

Buccaneer combines the highest UK winter malting barley yield with brewing approval, strong disease resistance and excellent straw strength. It gives growers the opportunity to target premium end markets without taking a significant yield penalty compared with conventional winter barley options.



“Buccaneer has performed well on farm and produced malt of an excellent quality for brewing and is likely to become an important winter malting barley for growers, maltsters and brewers.”

MARK INESON
Grain Supply Chain Manager
Muntons

Pedigree

Zophia X SJ128225

Developed through the Elsoms Ackermann Barley breeding programme, Buccaneer combines malting quality with reliable agronomic performance across UK growing conditions.

Key Features

Market-leading yield

The highest yielding winter malting barley variety in the UK.

Strong untreated performance

High untreated yield supported by robust disease resistance.

Reliable straw characteristics

High tillering capacity with good lodging resistance and low brackling risk.

Brewing-approved grain quality

Full MBC approval for brewing with low screenings, high specific weight and strong hot water extract.

2 YIELD

Consistent performance across UK conditions

Buccaneer is the highest yielding winter malting barley variety in the UK, delivering strong performance across a wide range of growing conditions.

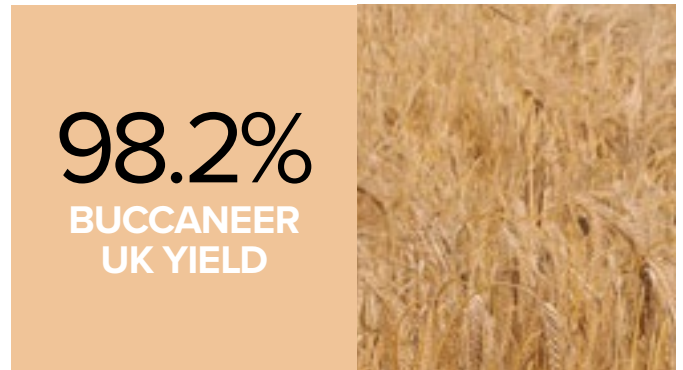
The variety has shown consistently high yields across all UK regions, including northern and western areas where seasonal pressure can challenge performance.

Buccaneer has also performed consistently across five contrasting trial seasons. This gives growers confidence in variable weather conditions.

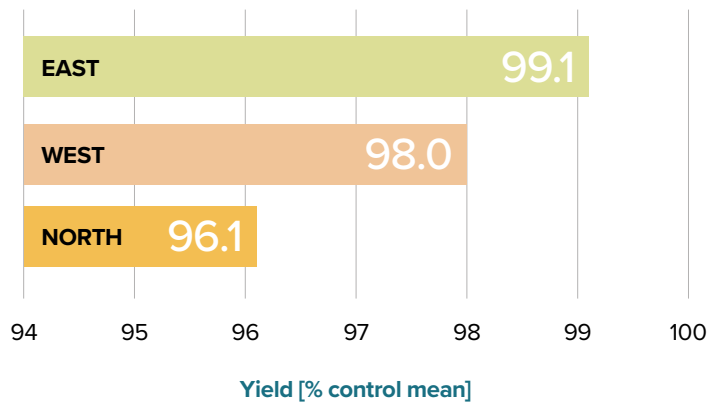
Soil type has not limited performance either. Buccaneer has delivered high yields on both light and heavy land, supporting its suitability across diverse farming systems.

Yield strength with market flexibility

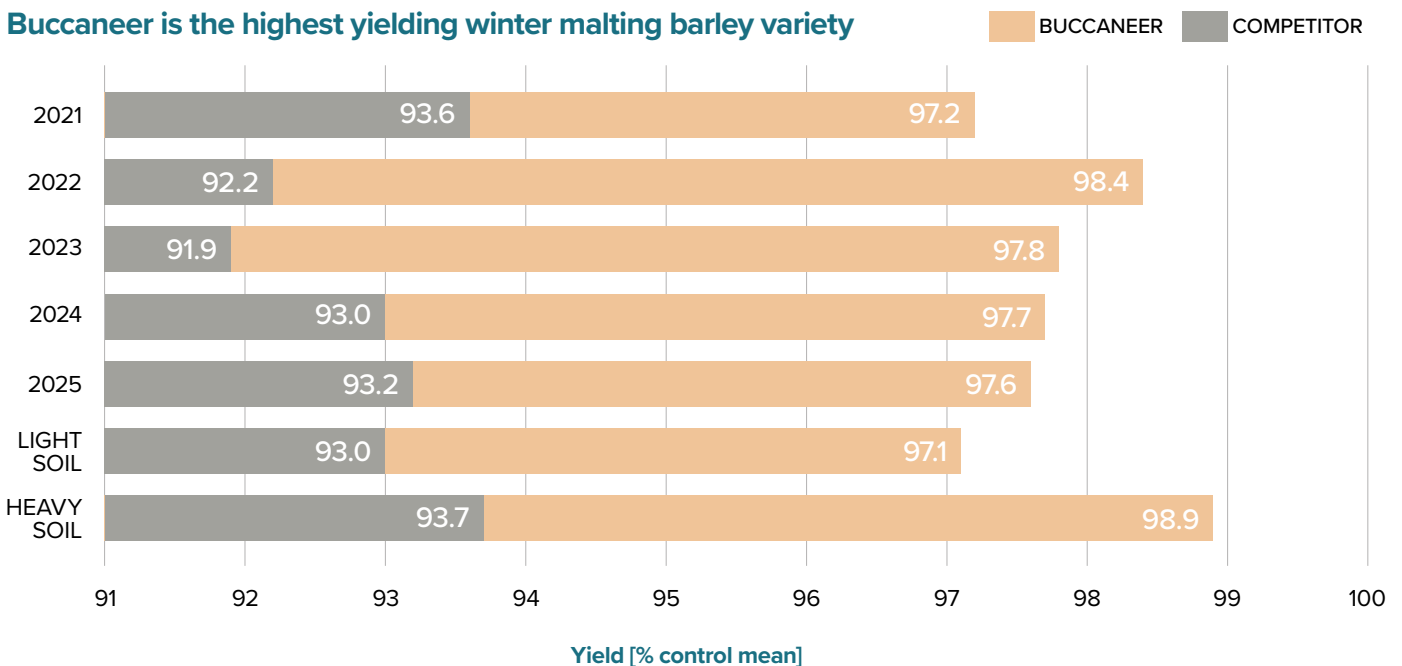
Buccaneer offers growers the flexibility to target brewing premiums while maintaining strong output potential. Its high yield performance helps reduce the financial impact if grain falls outside malting specification.



Buccaneer regional performance treated yield



Buccaneer is the highest yielding winter malting barley variety



3 DISEASE RESISTANCE

Disease resistance that protects yield

Buccaneer combines strong disease resistance with high untreated yield performance. Healthy crops help maintain green leaf area, tiller retention and grain quality throughout the season.

Brown rust

Brown rust can have a significant impact on winter barley yield by reducing green leaf area and affecting tiller retention. The disease can appear earlier in barley than in wheat, particularly in early-sown crops or following mild winters.

Rhynchosporium

Rhynchosporium remains the most damaging disease in UK winter barley. Wet conditions favour infection and yield losses can be significant where control is not maintained. In winter malting barley, effective *Rhynchosporium* control is important to protect grain quality and maintain market specification.

Net blotch

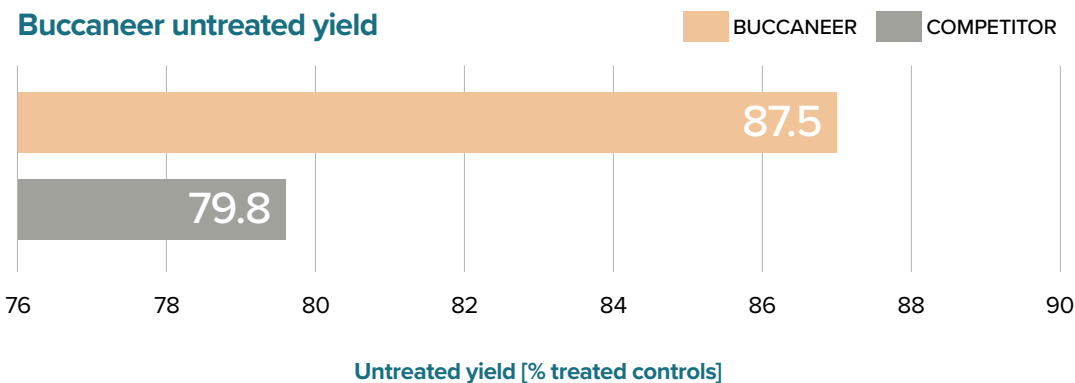
Net blotch can affect winter barley crops across the UK and reduce both yield and grain quality under prolonged disease pressure. Infection can originate from seed or infected crop debris, with disease development favoured by warm, humid conditions later in the season.



Buccaneer disease resistance scores

	BUCCANEER	COMPETITOR
Mildew 1-9	6	6
Brown rust 1-9	8	8
Rhynchosporium 1-9	6	6
Net blotch 1-9	5	5

Buccaneer untreated yield



3 DISEASE RESISTANCE

Fungicide strategy

T1 remains the most important fungicide timing in conventional winter barley, with up to 60% of the total yield response coming from applications at this stage.

Protecting plant health

Fungicide applications remain important even where visible disease symptoms are limited. Maintaining plant health and stronger cell walls can help reduce stress and lower the risk of brackling later in the season.



Buccaneer fungicide input considerations

	T0 – GS23-29 late tillering in early spring	T1 – GS30-32 Stem extension	T2 – GS 39-59 Flag leaf and ear emergence
Aim	Clear up overwinter disease. Mildew, brown rust, <i>Rhynchosporium</i> and net blotch.	Protect formed tillers and spikelets to increase final grain number.	Timing of T2 should be dictated by disease pressure.
Considerations	Will an application at this timing be economically viable? Consider whether a specific mildewcide is required at this timing.	This is the most important fungicide timing in winter barley.	Years with later harvest often see a greater yield response from T2 applications.

4 AGRONOMICS

Drilling rate

Buccaneer has a high tillering capacity. Seed rates should reflect drilling date and establishment conditions. Increase seed rates where drilling is delayed or conditions are challenging.

Growth habit

Buccaneer has an intermediate to prostrate growth habit through winter. Rapid spring development helps crops compete against grass weeds and support canopy recovery.

Fertiliser strategy

Winter malting barley responds well to early nitrogen applications that support tiller production and retention.

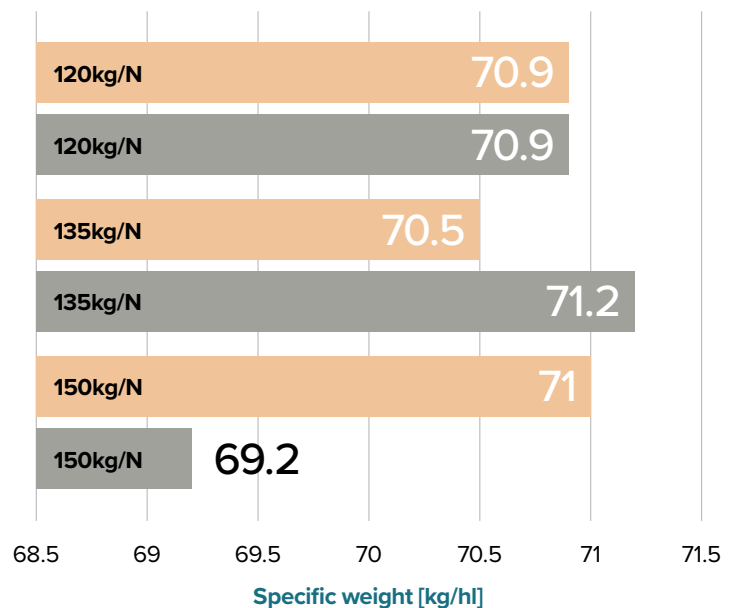
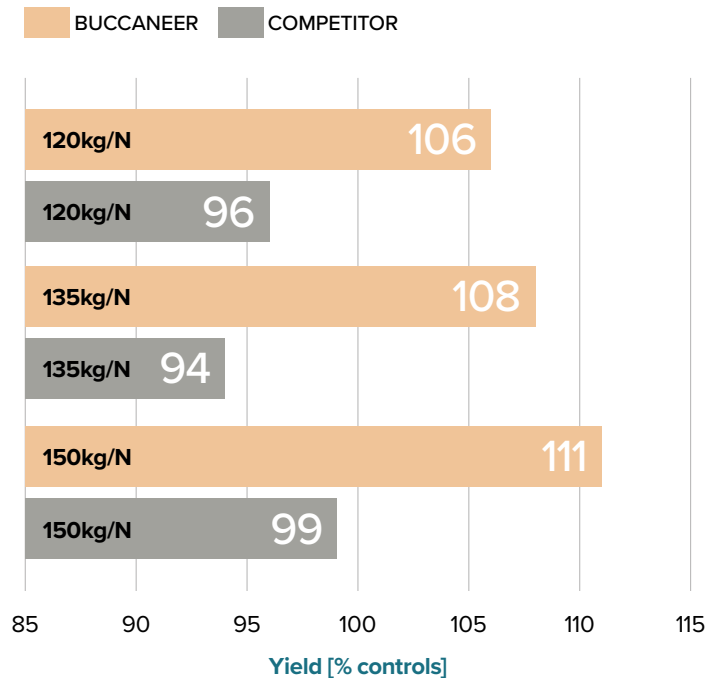
Nitrogen programmes should be tailored to soil type, cropping history and seasonal conditions. Final grain nitrogen targets should remain within brewing specification.

Target grain nitrogen

1.65-1.7%

Final nitrogen applications should typically be made by GS30–31.

Buccaneer nitrogen trial



SOURCE: Elsoms nitrogen trial 2025.

4 AGRONOMICS

PGR

Buccaneer combines shorter straw with good lodging resistance and low brackling risk.

A programmed PGR approach with split applications is recommended to support rooting, stem strength and canopy management. A third application may be appropriate where crop height or brackling risk is higher.

BYDV MANAGEMENT

Reducing BYDV risk

BYDV remains a key threat in UK barley crops following the loss of neonicotinoid seed treatments.

The main aphid vectors are Bird Cherry Oat Aphid (*Rhopalosiphum padi*) and Grain Aphid (*Sitobion avenae*).

Drilling date and site location both influence seasonal risk.

A T-Sum of 170 day degrees after crop emergence is commonly used to predict the emergence of secondary aphid populations responsible for spreading BYDV.

Regular crop monitoring and timely insecticide applications remain important where thresholds are met.



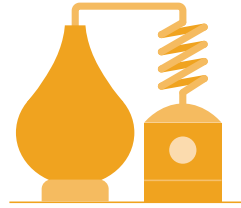
“Buccaneer is the number one winter malting barley variety in the UK. Farmer focussed agronomics coupled with end-market pull make it an easy choice for growers.”

BEN URQUHART
Technical Manager
Elsoms Seeds

5 END-MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

Spreading seasonal risk

Winter malting barley helps reduce reliance on spring drilling opportunities in difficult seasons. It also supports workload management and delivers higher yield potential than many spring alternatives.



Malting

Brewing market support

Buccaneer is approved by major maltsters and continues to gain support due to its consistency, high hot water extract and modern agronomic package.



Feed barley

Contracts are available through:

- Crisps
- Simpsons
- Muntons

Buccaneer is also listed by Boortmalt as a preferred variety.



Brewing specification

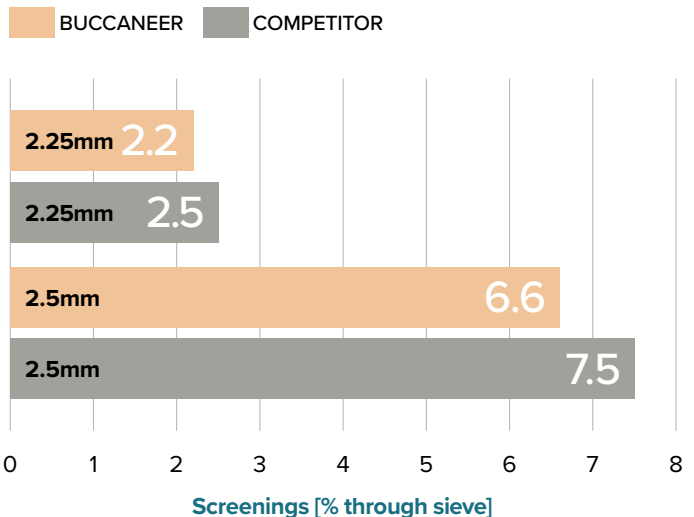
Typical brewing specifications include:

- Grain nitrogen: 1.6-1.75%
- Screenings: 94% over 2.25mm sieve

Grain quality

Buccaneer combines low screenings with high specific weight to support consistent grain quality for brewing markets.

Buccaneer screening comparison



6 ELSOMS

Unlocking the power of plants

Elsoms agricultural division provides UK farmers with a comprehensive range of high-performing arable crops, developed through our own and our partners' breeding programmes.

Our portfolio spans competitive varieties of cereals, oilseeds, and pulses, giving farmers the choice and resilience they need to adapt to changing markets, regulations, and environmental pressures.

By combining advanced plant science with generations of expertise, we deliver solutions that not only help farms grow efficiently but help everyone grow more from less.

Innovation with purpose

Innovation is at the heart of everything we do, and it always comes with the same intent; positive advancements that help unlock the power of plants.

Our approach blends cutting-edge science with practical application ensuring that new ideas work in the real world for the people who grow and depend on our seeds.

Leading seed technology

With over 30 years of specialist experience, we're the UK's leading seed treatment experts.

Our core focus is maximising quality and consistency, and our enhancements give crops the best start, ensuring even germination, stronger early growth, and higher marketable yields.



Powered by partnerships

We work as partners, with researchers, breeders, growers, suppliers and distributors.

Our purpose is not just supplying seeds or services, it's also building collaborative relationships that solve real challenges and deliver better outcomes for everyone we work with.

Our strong partnerships give us access to a wide variety of breeding material from across the world allowing us to continually improve and develop higher-performing and more sustainable varieties.

7 OUR ARABLE TEAM

Driven by passion

Our dedicated team of breeders, scientists, agronomists and crop teams bring a genuine enthusiasm for what they do to every part of our business.

Their depth of sector knowledge is extraordinary, and they're constantly looking for ways to evolve, finding new and better ways for our customers to grow more from less.

Speak to our experts

If you have any questions about Buccaneer winter barley or if you want to discuss our wider portfolio, contact our arable team today.



Toby Reich

Head of Agriculture

Mobile +44 (0) 7376 030918

Direct +44 (0) 1775 715615

toby.reich@elsoms.com



Freddie Durrant

Sales Manager: Agriculture

Mobile +44 (0) 7779 776423

Direct +44 (0) 1775 715629

freddie.durrant@elsoms.com



Kurtis Scarboro

Crop Manager: Cereals and Oilseeds

Mobile +44 (0) 7903 216731

Direct +44 (0) 1775 715029

kurtis.scarboro@elsoms.com



Ben Urquhart

Technical Manager: Agriculture

Mobile +44 (0) 7507 521258

Direct +44 (0) 1775 666607

ben.urquhart@elsoms.com



Olivia Cox

Commercial Assistant: Agriculture

Mobile +44 (0) 7947 934101

Direct +44 (0) 1775 660640

olivia.cox@elsoms.com

Agronomy Best Practice

Use plant protection products safely.

Always read the label and product information before use.

Consult a BASIS Qualified Advisor for advice and guidance on crop protection products.

Consult a FACTS Qualified Adviser for advice and guidance on nitrogen applications.

DATA SOURCE

All information and data is sourced from AHDB Recommended List Winter Barley 2026/27 unless stated otherwise.