



**Agrovista  
exclusive**

# Aleksandra

## winter barley

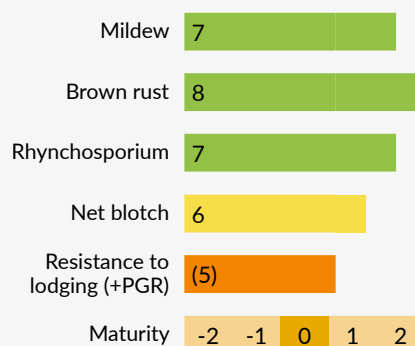
**Into its fourth autumn Aleksandra continues to serve livestock farmers well. Dependent on region yield is generally marginally better than KWS Tardis and sometimes also exceeds LG Caravelle.**

While yield is acceptable for a 2-row feed Aleksandra excels in other agronomic aspects which makes it somewhat unique in the market today. It has vigorous establishment, its straw is long with plenty of it, its resistance to disease is exceptional and it produces bold grain for feeding or selling.

### Aleksandra - 2 Row

Data extrapolated from AHDB RL 5-year report 2019-2023 and breeder data

- Aleksandra is a two-row feed barley with **exceptional** disease resistance and the highest untreated yield and specific weight of **any** variety of its time in official trials
- Untreated yield highest of any variety three years running
- Medium to long strawed perfectly suited to livestock farmers - easy to manage feed variety with max straw yield
- Comprehensive PGR recommended for fertile soils



REGION	YIELD
UK	(101)
EAST	(102)
WEST	(104)
NORTH	(98)
Untreated yield	(95)
Light soils	(100)
Heavy soils	(101)
Spec. weight	72.2

Bracketed data highlights a low number of trials in dataset and cannot be presumed accurate.



Aleksandra 10 January 2024 – showing some hybrid-like vigour and only just looking in need of nitrogen – Quentin Ham, South West Agronomist.

There is a direct link between Aleksandra's disease resistance and its superb specific weight. Unlike wheat where yield is reliant on a disease-free leaf one and two, in barley earlier infections pre growth stage 31 are more important. These can reduce photosynthetic area, restrict tillering and result in lower yields. Foliar disease infections after GS 39 can result in smaller grains and higher screenings. Nevertheless, in most situations fungicides will boost yield and keep crops healthy as they develop through canopy greening or growth regulatory effects.

Aleksandra winter barley is not on the UK AHDB Recommended List as its standing was deemed only 'moderate' following specific trials aimed solely at lodging varieties. Aleksandra's straw is medium to long and will benefit from a comprehensive plant growth regulator programme when following a break crop or grown in highly fertile situations. When managed correctly quality straw can be harvested adding further value to the overall crop.

"We got 349 big round bales off 14 hectares – not bad" voiced dairy farmer Rob Vines, Wiltshire.

By ignoring Aleksandra's straw and grain qualities and superb disease resistance AHDB were potentially denying livestock farmers of a significant home-produced benefit when production margins are tight. Agrovista feels these attributes are worth marketing and have over-ruled their decision and committed to maintain and produce the variety for retail sale. AHDB were not considering the benefits Aleksandra offers the livestock farmer, high specific weight means more starch per tonne and longer straw, more bales per hectare for bedding and feeding.

Aleksandra is fundamentally a management tool for growers and livestock farmers. A source of quality bedding and feeding straw. Or as an extra income stream to sell on. A means to manage risk when arable contractors are employed to grow the crops, or to widen the spraying window of opportunity if covering the entire farmed area when disease strikes is difficult.



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## “Aleksandra is like a hybrid. Put it in the ground and away it goes. It’s a hell of a barley.”

Three words sum up Alexandra winter barley for seed grower Colin Chappell – very high vigour.

His 6ha crop looked strong all season and exceeded expectations come harvest.

“It had a good start in our medium-bodied soils, following maize then peas, and romped away in good growing conditions through the autumn and again in the spring, to the extent where I was trying to put the handbrake on,” says Colin, of Gander Farm, Hibaldstow near Brigg.

The crop received two PGR applications, but Colin pared back fungicide to a single, albeit fairly robust, dose at T1, using prothioconazole + fluxapyroxad and pyraclostrobin.

“We didn’t see much rain at all rain from March onwards,” he recalls. “But the crop did have a lot of biomass, so we were being careful.”

His Aleksandra looked better and better as the season progressed, despite the dry. “It looked terrific approaching harvest, with huge ears and big, bold seed.”

He cut the crop in the first week of July and it didn’t disappoint, producing an overall yield of 8.95t/ha, almost a tonne above the farm’s norm. “It really performed well, helped by a fantastic specific weight of 71.3kg/hl.”

The seed was classed as very high vigour, describing the variety’s attributes in a nutshell. “Aleksandra is like a hybrid. Put it in the ground and away it goes. It’s a hell of a barley.”

Colin is growing a further 6ha of Alexandra for seed this season. “It would be my go-to as a commercial variety. My only caveat is to use an appropriate PGR strategy and don’t overdo the nitrogen – it is quite good strength-wise but it is tall strawed.

“If I was growing a barley to feed livestock, this is the one. High yield of bold grain, plenty of straw – it ticks both those boxes. And it is a doddle to combine as you’d expect.”



*All crops this year [2025-26] are coping well with the weather, although perhaps the Aleksandra better as it was tine drilled and unrolled!*

**Colin Chappell**  
Lincolnshire