UC Davis Barley Breeding Program: Dr. Isabel Alicia del Blanco leads the Barley Breeding Program at the University of California, Davis. Dr. del Blanco and her colleagues Lynn Gallagher, Joshua Hegarty and Jorge Dubcovsky, have been working with the California malting industry to develop malting barley cultivars well adapted to the California environments. ‘UC-Capay’ is a product of Dr. del Blanco’s ongoing collaboration with the American Malting Barley Association, the Brewers Association and California malting industry.

Two-rowed Spring Malting Barley Variety ‘UC-Capay’

UC-Capay (UC 1390) is a two-row malting barley selected from the cross among ‘29IB20’, ‘Orca’ and ‘ND22202’. These three genotypes were among the best two-rowed genotypes for malting quality, and adaptation to California Central Valley growing conditions, at the very beginning of the two-rowed malting barley program at UC Davis.

Adaptation and Use: ‘UC-Capay’ performs well at all areas where it has been tested in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys. ‘UC-Capay’ is especially beneficial in rainfed conditions where its yield stability is strongly advantageous. ‘UC-Capay’ combines excellent malting quality, low grain protein (about 8 to 10% lower than other varieties), with high yield potential, and resistance to the most common diseases in California, i.e. yellow dwarf virus and stripe rust.

Botanical Characteristics: ‘UC-Capay’ is a two-row malting barley without sterile lateral florets in the spike. It is also about 20 cm taller and 15 days earlier to head compared to UC Tahoe.

Pest and Disease Reaction: ‘UC-Capay’ has excellent tolerance to CYDV/BYDV, Powdery Mildew and stripe rust (significantly better than UC Tahoe and Butta 12 for stripe rust).

Field and Quality Performance: ‘UC-Capay’ has outstanding malting quality, superior to UC Tahoe for all environments/years tested. It showed higher grain yield than UC Tahoe under rain fed conditions, but slightly lower under irrigated trials.

Procedures to maintain stock seed classes: The Department of Plant Sciences at UC Davis will maintain Breeder seed. Foundation seed will be produced and distributed by the Foundation Seed Program of the University of California, Davis to licensed brokers and seed houses twice annually, fall and spring. Off-cycle requests are considered on a case-by-case basis. The California Crop Improvement Association will provide certification services. Increases of foundation seed are allowed for indefinite number of cycles. Seed production of Foundation, Registered and Certified classes is limited to California.

Intellectual property protection: ‘UC-Capay’ is protected under Plant Variety Protection under Title V, and is sold as certified seed. To obtain information and/or a license for ‘UC-Capay’ contact InnovationAccess: Denise L. Meade, Senior Intellectual Property Analyst, University of California, Davis, tel. (530) 754-8674, dlmeade@ucdavis.edu.