

Organically Managed Barley Cultivars

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The objectives of this study were to determine (1) if specific cultivars perform different when managed organically than conventionally and (2) if better weed control can be achieved with delayed seeding. Ten recommended barley cultivars were grown organically at two seeding dates at the Harrington Research Farm, PEI in 2002 and 2003. Each year plots received 20 tons ha⁻¹ of manure. Weeds were controlled by finger weeding at pre-emergence and at the 3-leaf stage. Grain yield from two organic seeding dates was compared with performance of these cultivars grown in conventional trials at the same site. At seeding conventional plots received 300 kg ha⁻¹ of 17-17-17 fertilizer. There was no consistent evidence that some cultivars are more suited to organic management than conventional management. Therefore, results from conventional trials may be used to select cultivars for organic production. Delayed seeding reduced grain yield by 0.67 t ha⁻¹ and 0.37 t ha⁻¹, in 2002 and 2003, respectively. There was no consistent trend to indicate that delayed seeding was more effective in controlling weeds than early seeding.

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