# GRDC PODCAST TRANSCRIPT

**National Variety Trials (NVT) New Variety Podcast series – Barley and Oats**

[00:00:05] **Intro** This is a GRDC podcast.

[00:00:12] **Sally Maguire** Hello, I'm Sally Maguire. Welcome back to GRDC's National Variety Trials, or NVT, New Variety Podcast Series. The NVT program aims to assist Australian grain growers in varietal decision making, by providing comparative information of commercially available grain varieties, including on yield performance, on disease resistance ratings and on grain quality. In this four-part series, we are hearing from a range of breeders across seven crop types, with each one providing information on newly commercialised cultivars in the NVT program that will be available to growers for the first time in the upcoming season. Today we are covering both barley and oats. First up, let's hear from RAGT Seedsmith, David Leah on barley.

[00:01:01] **David Leah** RAGT's barley variety in RGT planet is still one of the highest yielding malt barleys on the market with an extremely high-end use acceptance. It's a quick to mid maturity malt barley variety that's suited to the kind of medium to high rainfall zones. It's got a solid disease package and is very sought after by the maltsters and brewers’ markets, both domestically and internationally. It's still one of the most recognised international malt varieties globally. Like I said, suited to the medium to high rainfall zones, excellent premiums being paid on it at the moment and has a $4.40 EPR on it, and yes, it's an internationally malt accredited variety.

[00:01:49] **Sally Maguire** And now let's hear from barley breeder Amanda Box from Seednet.

[00:01:53] **Amanda Box** I'm going to talk a little bit about Newton Barley. So, Newton Barley is a two-row winter feed type that was bred by Secobra Research in France. Newton will be commercialised in Australia by Seednet and an EPR of $3.50 applies to its grain production. Newton has been identified as a dual-purpose variety, allowing for April sowing for grazing, a long growing season then a harvest maturity equivalent to other long season cereals. Newton has a highly competitive plant type with a very high tillering ability, high total biomass production and high grain yield potential. Newton is a tall plant type of maturity, and a plant growth regulator is recommended to manage the large canopy and reduce lodging if ungrazed. 2023 is Newton's first year in the NVT program and has been included in all longer season barley NVT evaluation across SA, Victoria, and Tasmania. Disease ratings from the 2023 NVT season need to be confirmed, but independent research has found relatively low levels of foliar disease, especially for net form of net blotch. However, it is susceptible to barley yellow dwarf virus. Newton is suited to the grain and graze districts of WA, SA, Victoria, Tasmania, and New South Wales. Its performance can be compared to winter wheat like Illabo, Wedgetail and Bennett.

[00:03:22] **Sally Maguire** Moving on to oats and joining us now also from Seednet, is General Manager Simon Crane.

[00:03:29] **Simon Crane** Koala is a grain oat variety bred by SARDI. It's the last grain oat variety from the National Oat Breeding Program when it was managed by SARDI. Koala is a medium to long season variety suited to milling oat growing regions of Victoria, southern New South Wales, South Australia, and Western Australia. Koala has been in the NVT system since 2018 and has long term yield results at the top of the charts for medium to high rainfall zones across Australia. Koala has been bred from the popular milling oat variety Bannister, with the aim of being a milling variety itself. To achieve this, Koala has been entered in Grain Australia's inaugural Milling Oat Classification Program. The number of large-scale crops being grown this year for commercial evaluation after the harvest. In comparison to Bannister, Koala has slightly longer maturity, slightly better foliar disease resistance and higher yield potential. Koala oat seed will be widely available for growers in 2024, with an endpoint royalty of only $2.50 plus GST per tonne. The name Koala follows the long tradition of SARDI naming their varieties after Australian native animals with a high-profile name like Koala, perhaps saving the best to last.

[00:04:47] **Sally Maguire** Today, we've heard from different breeders across two crops: oats and barley. And just a reminder that the National Variety Trials, or NVT program, is completely independent, funded and managed by GRDC to provide growers with reliable information to assist in variety choice. As well as individual plant breeder websites, all the information about the varieties featured in this podcast can be found at nvt.grdc.com.au. I'm Sally Maguire, this has been a GRDC podcast, thanks for listening.