REGISTRATION OF BEACON BARLEY
(Reg. No. 132)

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'BEACON' barley (Hordeum vulgare L. emend. Lam.), CI 15480, was developed at North Dakota State University. It originated from a single F2 plant selected in 1965 from the cross 'Conquest'/'Dickson' made in 1963. Early generations were grown alternately at the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, Fargo, and in a winter increase nursery at Cd. Obregon, Sonora, Mexico. It was tested as ND B140 for agronomic performance and disease reaction in North Dakota, other North Central States, and Manitoba, Canada. The Department of Cereal Chemistry and Technology at North Dakota State University, the USDA Barley and Malt Laboratory at Madison, Wisconsin, and industry laboratories collaborated in quality testing. Beacon was named and released in January 1973.

Beacon is a six-rowed, rough-awned, spring barley with medium sized kernels of the covered type, having short rachilla hairs and colorless aleurone. The spike is medium-lax, midlong, and seminodding. Plants of the cultivar are midtall and have stronger straw and earlier maturity than 'Larker,' 'Dickson,' and 'Nordic.' Beacon is resistant to loose smut and has prevalent strains of spot blotch, net blotch, Septoria leaf blotch, and stem rust but is susceptible to leaf rust and powdery mildew. Grain yields of Beacon have been slightly greater than but less than Dickson and Nordic in North Dakota and adjacent areas. The kernel plumpness of Beacon is intermediate and greater than Dickson and Nordic. Beacon is adapted to the midwestern area of the United States. Beacon was carlot tested for malting and brewing for two years by industry after showing promising results in small scale tests and has been classed as an acceptable malting variety.

Breeder seed will be maintained by the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, Fargo, North Dakota 58102.

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