Registration of ‘UC 937’ Barley

‘UC 937’ barley (Hordeum vulgare L.) (Reg. no. CV-296, PI 608667) is a six-rowed spring feed barley released by the California Agricultural Experiment Station in 1998. UC 937 was selected from the cross ‘Sma1’/‘Sunbar 401’/3/‘Gus’/‘Kombye’/‘Sma1’ (Matchett and Cantu, 1978). Sma1 has the parentage ‘Steptoe’/2/‘Diamant’/3/Minn Dwarf 64.98/8/‘Briggs’/4/‘Asse’ (Muir and Nylan, 1973; Schaller and Prato, 1968). The final cross was made at Woodland, CA, in 1983 by Robert Matchett. Subsequent generations were handled in a pedigree selection program. An F6-derived seed sample in the F6 generation (86Woodland 41233) was received for testing by the University of California, Davis, from Robert Matchett in 1987. A head row was selected for agronomic appearance in 1992 by Lynn Gallagher and designated UCD 92-10,615 for preliminary yield trials. In 1993, it was designated UC 937 and placed in California regional yield trials for statewide evaluation. Over 32 yield trials, UC 937 averaged 4688 kg ha\(^{-1}\) and was superior to other varieties with an increase of 14.8% more than ‘UC 476’ (Schaller et al., 1990), 22.2% more than ‘UC 603’ (Schaller et al., 1990), 11.4% more than ‘Nebula’, 104.2% more than ‘Max’, and 23.6% more than ‘Patti’.

UC 937 is short-statured, averaging 88.9 cm, as a result of the sdw gene, but averages 5 cm taller than ‘UC 828’ (Gallagher et al., 1996). UC 937 is intended for late fall to early winter (November-December) sowing in the Central Valley of California. Heading time of UC 937 is 2 to 5 d later than UC 828, with mid-November to mid-December emergence under short daylengths in California.

UC 937 is moderately resistant to barley yellow dwarf virus, leaf rust (caused by Puccinia hordei Otth.), powdery mildew [caused by Erysiphe graminis DC. f. sp. hordei Em. Marchal; syn. Blumeria graminis (DC.) E. O. Speer], net blotch [caused by Pyrenophora teres Drechs.] and scald [caused by Rhynchosporium secalis (Oudem.) J.J. Davis]. UC 937 is resistant to races of stripe rust (Puccinia striiformis f. sp. hordei) existing in the Central Valley of California. In 2 yr of stripe rust observations at Cochabamba, Bolivia, in 1994 and 1995 (W.M. Brown, V. Velasco, and J.P. Hill, personal communication, 1994 and 1995), UC 937 was scored ‘TrR’ and 5MS compared with 100S and 90S, respectively, for UC 828.

The spike of UC 937 is semi-smooth awned, mid-dense, waxy, and semi-erect. The kernels are beige with a white aleurone and covered. Kernel weight averages about 43 mg and is similar to UC 828, but heavier than UC 337 (Schaller et al., 1990) in the absence of stripe rust.

Breeder and Foundation seed classes are maintained by the Foundation Seed and Certification Services, Univ. of California, Davis CA 95616.