PBG 431 Plant Genetics recitation

The Barley Show

Two barley genes were discussed, and their phenotypic manifestations demonstrated, during the recitation: *Vrs1* and *Nud*. Alternative alleles at *Vrs1* determine inflorescence type: 2-row (dominant) or 6-row (recessive). Alternative alleles at *Nud* determine if the lemma and palea adhere to the seed: adhering = covered (dominant) and non-adhering = naked (recessive).

The presenter opined that inflorescence type does not play a big role in important traits – like grain yield and end-use properties but that the naked trait could potentially be of economic importance.

1. In 100 words or less describe the presenter’s rationale for the potential economic importance of the naked trait in barley.
2. The presenter passed around three samples of malt. The first two were covered, the third was naked. Which sample did you like the most, and why?