**Barley in the home garden**

Barley is an incredibly productive plant: one seed may give you 100 seeds back! Therefore, plan head for harvest and threshing. For home gardeners, we recommend growing a naked (hull-less) variety because it can be easily threshed and consumed directly. Covered (hulled) varieties require more seed cleaning and are not ideal for food. Key things to consider:

* Planting rate: ~30 seeds per square foot.
* Seeding depth: ~1 inch. Plant in rows~ 6 inches apart or broadcast.
* Fertility: Treat the barley like you would a tomato, and then cut the amount of fertilizer in half. Keep it simple - apply all the fertilizer at planting.
* Planting date: Planting date is a function of growth habit. Optimum planting dates will vary. In Western Oregon, optimum planting times for winter and facultative types are in mid-October and mid-March for spring and facultative types. Do not plant winter types in the spring or spring types in the fall, unless you are ready for some potentially nasty surprises.
* Harvest date: The crop will be golden and dry at harvest. The seed will resist cracking between your teeth (do this test only with permission from your dentist). In Western Oregon fall planted barley is usually ready for harvest in late July and spring-planted barley in mid-August.