

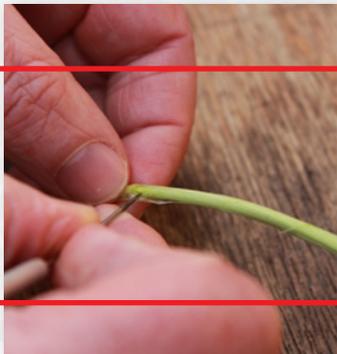
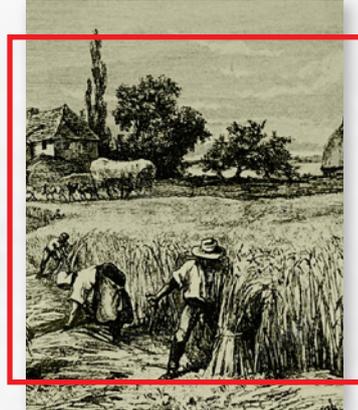


THE MINCH MALT HEIRLOOM VARIETY PROGRAMME

UNEARTHING A HIDDEN GEM

A LITTLE BACKGROUND

- In the early 19th century, Ireland was one of the leading countries in the world for breeding new varieties of malting barley.
- Today, a range of these varieties are stored in 25g samples by The Dept. of Agriculture in a seed bank at their Backweston facility in Co. Dublin.



THE CHALLENGE

- In mid 2015, we spoke to leading craft brewers in Ireland about their vision for the future of the industry, and the idea of reintroducing a truly Irish heirloom variety that the craft could claim as its own gained traction.
- The challenge for us was to increase 25g samples stored by The Dept. of Agriculture to 100 tonnes of barley for malting purposes.

HOW WE DID IT

- In August 2015, Tom Bryan, Minch Malt Technical Manager for Agronomy, met with key stakeholders in The Dept. of Agriculture to share this vision.
- The Dept. showed great interest and offered to support the upscaling of 2 heirloom varieties, Irish Goldthorpe (1905) & Hunter (1950), and from there, the dream became a reality.





THE TIMELINE

2015



NOV 2015

Dept. of Agriculture sow 25g of seed of heirloom varieties Irish Goldthorpe & Hunter in their glasshouses.

MAY OF 2016

1kg of Irish Goldthorpe and 2kg of Hunter harvested and immediately sown at the Backweston plots in Dublin.



APRIL 2017

We sowed Irish Goldthorpe and Hunter at Minch Malt in Athy, Co. Kildare.

SEPTEMBER 2017

We harvested and dried both varieties to yield approx. 1MT of each.



SPRING 2018

We will sow the 1MT again in the hopes it will yield 15MT.

2019

15MT will be sown again to yield enough barley for a commercial scale maltings.



2020

2020

HEIRLOOM MALT BATCH.



OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

- Heirloom varieties are notoriously difficult to grow, taking almost 5 years of investment to come to fruition. This is not a commercial decision in the truest sense, but more born out of passion for our heritage, malting barley and agriculture.
- At Minch Malt, we hope to uncover malting barley from an earlier era that adds its own set of unique characteristics and flavour to beer, but ultimately, our goal is to pedestal Irish malt as a leader in the global market once again.