

## Variety mixtures of spring barley as a tool in weed management

Why use variety mixtures?

- ◇ Yield stability
- ◇ Improved resistance against diseases
- ◇ **Better competitiveness against weeds**

Crop competitiveness: the key is to obtain a dense crop canopy during the growing season. Great crop biomass means low weed biomass, especially if the crop closes the canopy quickly.

So how do you obtain this situation with the information available?

Typical available information: *height, tillering, crop biomass, yield and maturity timing*

Below we have provided the information that we produced in the PRODIVA project on a selection of varieties.

*Examples of characteristics of varieties and variety mixtures:*

Barley variety	Height early season	Height end of season	Tillering	BioWGG	Yield
<b>LV experience</b>	<i>Organic growing conditions according to Latvian regulation; Seeding density: 400 pl/m<sup>2</sup></i>				
<i>Abava</i>	High	High	Medium	Low-Medium	Medium
<i>Rasa</i>	Low-Medium	Low-Medium	Medium-High	Medium-High	Medium
<i>Rubiola</i>	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium
<i>Maali</i>	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium-High
<b>Best variety mix</b>					
<i>Rubiola+Abava</i>	Medium-High	Medium-High	Medium	Low	Medium
<b>DK experience</b>	<i>Organic growing conditions according to Danish regulation; Seeding density: 350 pl/m<sup>2</sup>, fertiliser: 100 kg slurry/ha</i>				
<i>Evergreen</i>	Medium	Medium	Medium-High	Medium	High
<i>Quench</i>	Medium	Low-Medium	Medium	Low	Low
<b>PL experience</b>	<i>Organic growing conditions according to Polish regulation; Seeding density: 350 pl/m<sup>2</sup></i>				
KWS Olof	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium