New oat variety listing in Germany: 'ASTERION' spring oats

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(Translation from German)

The Federal Office of Plant Varieties in Hanover registered the new, very high-yielding spring oat 'ASTERION' in Germany on 20 December 2022.

This yellow hulled spring oat has outstandingly high hectolitre weights not reached by current varieties with the same classification in the "Variety Description List". Besides this most important marketing criterion, ASTERION impresses with the highest yield classification for yellow oats in both treated and untreated yield trials (level 7/7).

The *pm7* resistance gene gives it almost total resistance to powdery mildew (level 1). Good tolerances against *Helminthosporium* and other leaf spots extend the resistance profile and make ASTERION a very healthy and resistant variety. It is medium-early ripening and shows a good balance of standing power, plant height, and culm stability. Because of its high untreated yields, broad-based resistances, and solid, balanced agronomic characteristics, ASTERION is also well-suited for intensively managed or organic farms. The good tillering performance ensures stable yields on lighter or drier sites.

In processing, ASTERION gives the oat miller a great advantage because of its very good hullability (level 2), its low husk content (APS 2), and its excellent and uniform grading. In modern oat mills, the hullability of the commodity plays a particularly important role because of the technology that is used (hulling before kilning to save energy and water), especially in years with a hot and dry grain filling period.

ASTERION thus combines top yields with the best hectolitre weights, excellent health, and top processing quality.

ASTERION is already listed in the UK as well and will be ready for recommendation for growing by the AHDB from the end of 2023. Listings in other countries in central, western, and northern Europe will follow in future years.