

Barley cultivar MN 698, high malting quality for the state of Rio Grande do Sul

Cultivar MN 698, cevada de alta qualidade malteira para o estado do Rio Grande do Sul

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- NOTE -

ABSTRACT

MN 698 is a new cultivar developed by AmBev that resulted from a cross between the cultivars MN 599 and MN 635. MN 698 shows a grain yield potential higher than 4t ha⁻¹, has early cycle and is moderately resistant to lodging. Its spike is uniform and produces around 20 grains well-distributed. MN 698 shows a medium tillering capacity (two to three per plant), and is characterized by the presence of anthocyanin in the culm basis, arists, and glumes. It is the national cultivar with the highest quality and represents an important advance for this cereal in Brazil, combining interests of both the producer and the industrial sector.

Key words: *Hordeum vulgare*, cereal breeding, barley genetic.

RESUMO

A cultivar MN 698, desenvolvida pela AmBev é resultado do cruzamento entre as cultivares MN 599 e MN 635. MN 698 apresenta potencial de rendimento superior a 4t ha⁻¹, possui ciclo precoce e moderada resistência ao acamamento. A espiga é uniforme e produz em torno de 20 grãos bem distribuídos. MN 698 demonstra capacidade de afilhamento mediana (dois a três por planta) e caracteriza-se pela presença de antocianina na base do colmo, aristas e glumas. É a cultivar nacional de melhor qualidade e representa importante avanço para este cereal no Brasil, combinando interesses de produtores e da indústria do setor.

Palavras-chave: *Hordeum vulgare*, melhoramento de cereais, genética da cevada.

Barley spreading occurs by deals between producers and malting industries. Thus, there are a reliable estimative this cereal production year by year. The barley area in Rio Grande do Sul State changes as according to climatic conditions, price policies and context of other commodities, such as wheat and soybean. In 2004, approximately 80,000ha of this cereal were cultivated in Rio Grande do Sul State, being 40,000ha seeded with MN 698 cultivar (50% of expanded area) in the State of Rio Grande do Sul. Other cultivars cultivated are BRS 195 (40% of area) and E 127, MN 684, MN 610 and other lines, representing 10% of area. The cultivated area of MN 698 represents about 80,000t of barley that will not be imported, favoring the production chain of this cereal in Brazil.

The genetic improvement program carried out by the AmBev aims at developing new barley cultivars to uphold the supply of this cereal in Brazil. Therefore, it is focused on identifying high-yielding cultivars in combination with a high-malting quality. MN 698 is a barley cultivar developed by AmBev, after six years (1993 to 1998) of qualitative and quantitative evaluations under different environmental conditions

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in the three states of the southern region of Brazil. MN 698 represents a noteworthy genetic progress in the production of barley, for it gathers favorable phenotypes and a number of important agronomic traits. Consequently, malting industries are able to reduce the percentage of imported barley in their blends, thus becoming more competitive. The objective of this work was to provide information on the performance of this novel cultivar to the scientific community.

MN 698 was the result of a single cross carried out by the Cia. Cervejaria Brahma, in 1986, between cultivars MN 599 and MN 635. The pedigree of this cultivar combines genetic characteristics of good agronomic and qualitative traits from genotypes of the companies Embrapa and Brahma (Figure 1). The segregant generations up to homozygosity were conducted at the Estação Experimental of Encruzilhada do Sul. Up to F₄ generation the bulk method was used. In F₅ and F₆ generations, the pedigree method was followed. This line was evaluated in a preliminary trial in 1993 and in a regional trial in 1994 and 1995, and then for its Cultivation and Use Value in 1996, 1997, and 1998. In 1999 and 2000, the cultivar was qualitatively evaluated at industrial scale (condition for the release and acceptance by the beer industries) in the brewery Maltaria Navegantes, in Porto Alegre, Brazil. The malt produced during the malting process was forwarded to the Centro de Desenvolvimento Tecnológico (CDT), in Guarulhos, São Paulo, for a sensorial and organoleptic evaluation of the beer in 2001. MN 698 was registered for cultivation in the State of Rio Grande do Sul. Data on the evaluation trials and registration at the Ministério da Agricultura are shown in the abstracts of the Comissão Brasileira de Pesquisa de Cevada (SPEROTTO, 1997; MINELLA et al., 1998; SPEROTTO, 1999).

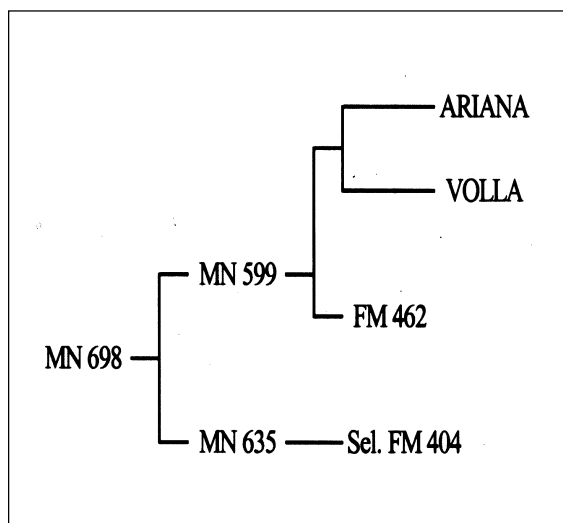


Figure 1 - Pedigree of the cultivar MN 698

MN 698 shows a grain yield potential higher than 4t ha⁻¹. Its average yield is close to 3.5t ha⁻¹. Over the three years of evaluation, its mean grain yield exceeded the control BR 2 by 6.27, 14.4, and 1.63%, respectively. In the evaluation reflecting the mean of 21 environments, in three years, MN 698 was superior to BR 2 by 7.40% (Table 1). The cultivar presents an average grain over 2.5mm percentage around 95% (Table 2), with a low percentage of tertiary quality (below 2.2mm), what confers a high profitability to producers. Concerning the quality, all tests carried out during the experimental stage (500 g of barley) and microbrewing (800 kg of barley) certify its brewing pattern. Its extract and protein content, diastatic power, and friability meet industry specifications (Table 2).

Cultivar MN 698 is indicated for the State of Rio Grande do Sul. It has a semi-upright growth

Table 1 - Grain yield (kg ha⁻¹) of the cultivar MN 698 in different environments compared to the check, cultivar BR 2

Environment	1998		1997		1996	
	MN 698	BR 2 (C)	MN 698	BR 2 (C)	MN 698	BR 2 (C)
Passo Fundo	3,849	3,730	4,227	3,678	4,000	3,778
Selbach	2,924	3,092	1,895	1,634	3,891	3,634
Vacaria	3,433	3,518	3,865	3,059	2,647	2,655
Sananduva	3,912	3,818	4,709	3,983	1,297	1,380
Encruzilhada do Sul	3,012	2,587	3,079	2,814	2,832	2,033
Cachoeira do Sul	3,391	3,352	3,702	3,502	1,898	2,136
Piratini	4,400	4,423	5,055	4,506	3,500	3,264
General mean	3,560	3,503	3,790	3,311	2,866	2,697

C = Control.

Table 2 - Industrial quality of the cultivar MN 698 based upon industrial process of the brewery Maltaria Navegantes, of Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Character	Unit	MN 698	Specification
Kernel plumpness*	%	96.0	-
Protein content	%	11.8	From 10.5 to 12.5
Extract	%	81.4	Minimum 80.5
Diastatic power	Wk	240.0	Minimum 220
B-glucan	mg 100g ⁻¹	140.0	Maximum 180
Friability	%	82.0	Minimum 75

* Means of 21 environments.

habit and is susceptible to soil acidity. Its vegetative cycle is averagely as long as 90 days, with approximately 140 days from emergence to maturation. As its plant architecture ensures a moderate lodging resistance, qualitative loss occurs only under highly adverse conditions (heavy rain, low light incidence, and strong wind). The spike is uniform and produces around 20 grains well-distributed. MN 698 shows a medium tillering capacity (two to three per plant). MN 698 is characterized by the presence of anthocyanin in the culm basis, arists, and glumes. It is intermediately tall (70-80 cm) and stands out for its remarkable adaptive

capacity to the different regions of the State of Rio Grande do Sul. As to diseases, cultivar MN 698 presents susceptibility to *Blumeria graminis* f. sp. *hordei*, *Puccinia hordei*, *Pyrenophora teres*, *Bipolaris sorokiniana*, and *Fusarium sp* (REUNIÃO, 2005). AmBev is in charge of the genetic seed of cultivar MN 698. Seed trade is supervised by the company itself, as well as by cereal grain producers and cooperatives supplying barley in Brazil.

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