

1 **Green malt for a green future – Feasibility and challenges of brewing using freshly**
2 **germinated (unkilned) malt - a review**

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24 Abstract

25 In malting, the kilning step is by far the dominant user of energy and has thus become the main target in
26 reducing the carbon footprint of malting operations. Brewing beer using 'green' (germinated, but not
27 dried) malt, thus saving the substantial energy input associated with kilning and conserving the water
28 contained in the green malt, could improve the energy and water efficiency of malting operations.
29 Furthermore, the high enzyme complement in green malt could enable more efficient brewing using
30 unmalted cereals (e.g. raw barley) to create highly attenuated beers, without the use of exogenous
31 enzymes. The objective of this review is to unravel the major advantages, but also quality and technical
32 challenges, which could serve as a base for future studies on successfully brewing with green malt.
33 Furthermore, the aim is to evaluate the impacts of such a process on beer flavour and flavour (in)stability.
34 This is important to establish because one can make arguments that such a process will either improve
35 flavour stability (reduced heat load should reduce the pool of staling aldehydes) or worsen it (since
36 lipxygenase activity and dimethyl sulphide potential can be regulated by heat treatment during kilning).

37 Keywords: green malt, energy efficient malting, flavour stability, sustainability

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39 Introduction

40 Sustainability has been defined as *“development that meets the needs of the present without*
41 *compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs”*¹. Annually, European maltsters
42 produce around 9.7 million tonnes of malt - and this trend is increasing². Malting barley production
43 accounts for about 241 kg CO₂eq/t; malting itself adds 217 kg CO₂eq/t – doubling the total malt carbon
44 footprint³. In the UK alone, emissions of more than 300,000 tonnes CO₂ per year are produced through
45 the manufacturing of more than 1.6 million t of malt^{2,4} – this corresponds to annual CO₂ emissions of
46 about 14,851 British households⁵. Thus, the malting industry is constantly exploring ways to improve its
47 energy efficiency. To date, around 6-15% of the cost per ton of malt can be attributed to energy usage⁴.
48 Moreover, a number of governments impose national-level energy or carbon taxes, calculated based on
49 the carbon content. Hence, diminishing energy usage is not just an environmental driver but also a
50 financial driver. While some research has been carried out on energy efficient malting^{4, 6-10}, to our
51 knowledge only a few studies¹¹⁻¹⁶ focused on wort and beer production using green (germinated, undried)
52 malt. The objective of this review is to evaluate the feasibility of brewing using freshly germinated (green)
53 malt, with omission of the kilning step. Similarly, the main focus is on the influences on microbiological
54 stability, extractability, as well as final beer flavour and flavour stability due to different biochemical
55 compositions of germinated malt compared to kilned malt.

56

57 Considering the production of pale malted barley, the malting process comprises three main steps:
58 steeping, germination and kilning. Malt quality and functionality is not solely defined by these classical
59 stages. By changing the grade and type of barley, steeping and germinating under different conditions
60 and by kilning or roasting at differing moisture contents and to different temperatures, a range of malt
61 types are prepared^{7, 17-19}. Malting is a process that modifies barley until it is suitable to produce beer (both
62 due to physical modification of the grain and the development of key enzyme activities).

63 After harvest, barley can go through a phase of dormancy, usually a period of 6-8 weeks (depending on
64 variety and the weather during harvest) where the seedling cannot germinate^{20, 21}. Thus, after cleaning
65 and grading, the barley is usually not malted directly but is stored until the actual malting process can
66 start. If the moisture content in barley exceeds 12% the barley has to be dried to slow the rate of
67 respiration and avoid microbial growth (e.g. fungi). Subsequently, the grain can be stored, e.g. in silos,
68 whereby ventilation is necessary to maintain its viability. This effectively removes CO₂, water and heat,
69 while simultaneously supplying the grain with oxygen.

70 Following cleaning and grading of the stored barley, the malting process is initiated with the steeping unit
71 operation. During steeping, barley is immersed in water, to increase the moisture content, aiming to
72 trigger germination, but also to clean the grain from dust, impurities and germination inhibitors^{22,23}. The
73 steeping process consists of one or more wet and dry cycles. During the wet phase, the grain is submerged
74 in water. The moisture uptake can change depending on barley variety, crop year, kernel size, nitrogen
75 content, dormancy, water sensitivity, or applied steeping parameters (i.e. time, temperature, aeration)²⁴⁻
76 ²⁶. After a few hours of steeping, the water is drained off and the dry phase (air rest) commences (Figure
77 1). During this phase, moisture is distributed more evenly throughout the grain, helping to hydrate the
78 compact starchy endosperm. Grain germinates more vigorously as a result of alternating wet and dry
79 stands, than would be the case for continuous immersion. During steeping, the grain must be aerated,
80 whilst the respiration product (CO₂) is removed; failure to do that could result in a so-called 'dead steep'.
81 Following the required recipe of wet and dry stands steeping typically seeks to increase the moisture
82 content of barley to between 40-46% w/w, at which point the barley is transferred ('cast') into a
83 germination vessel. Here, the barley is allowed to germinate whilst cool, attemperated, 100% humidified
84 air is circulated through the bed to remove the heat of germination, whilst not unduly drying the grain.
85 Air-flow is regulated typically to maintain temperatures across the bed of germinating malt in the range
86 12-20°C. During germination, the required physical and biochemical changes occur. The initiation of
87 germination triggers a hormonal and enzymatic cascade which effects the breakdown of endosperm
88 components: cell wall materials, protein matrix and some limited breakdown of starch¹⁷. Longer and
89 warmer germination conditions lead to increased rootlet growth, so it is important for maltsters to
90 carefully control process temperature and time to deliver the required endosperm breakdown
91 ('modification') and enzyme production, whilst minimising malting loss caused by excessive growth of the
92 embryo. Germination is allowed to proceed until the desired degree of modification has been achieved
93 (usually after 3.5 - 5 days of germination) when seed germination is arrested by a hot air drying process
94 known as kilning. Furthermore, the thermal processing of malt on the kiln leads to the formation of
95 desirable colour and flavour characteristics^{17, 27, 28}. The main goal of kilning is to lower the moisture
96 content of green malt down to around 4%, thus stopping germination and yielding a stable product that
97 can be transported. In the production of base malts for brewing, it is important that key enzymes (e.g.
98 amylases) should be protected by applying a 'gentle' kilning program (slow lowering of water content
99 through stepwise increase in the air-on temperature). During conventional kilning, the initial moisture of
100 > 40% is first reduced to approx. 12% by forcing dry air through a bed of grain with a stepwise increase in
101 air-on temperature, starting at around 50°C and ramping gently to 70°C. In this stage, free water is being

102 removed. In the next phase, known as curing, the bound water from within grains is removed, lowering
103 the moisture content to 4-5% by circulating air at temperatures above 80°C. After kilning, the malt is
104 cooled, cleaned (rootlet removal) and stored for 3-4 weeks, to avoid lautering and fermentation
105 difficulties, associated with the use of freshly kilned malt ²⁹⁻³². Subsequently, the brewer mashes milled
106 malt in water to start the process of wort production in the brewery. Thus, viewed holistically, the malting
107 and brewing processes are defined by the sequential addition and removal of water, which does not make
108 a huge amount of sense when considering them as a joined-up process.

109 The most dominant contributors to the carbon footprint of the malting process are gas (or other process
110 fuels) and electricity ^{4, 10, 33}. A UK Carbon Trust report ⁴ demonstrated that fuel use accounted for about
111 68% and electricity about 32% of the malting sector's CO₂ emissions. Electricity usage is spread over all
112 process steps, whereas gas and coal are primarily used in kilning ³³. During the drying process, removal of
113 free moisture from green malt is relatively easy until the grain reaches a moisture content of
114 approximately 12%. To remove the remaining water in bound form a lot of energy is required. A review
115 of the UK malting sector ⁴ reported average specific energy usage to be ca. 1,200 kWh/t malt and up to
116 80% of this energy was used in drying of malt (kilning). Hence, kilning is the most dominant user of heat
117 and electricity, making it the main contributor to the carbon footprint associated with malting. Numerous
118 previous studies have focused on ways in which to reduce the energy needed for kilning ^{4, 6, 10, 33-35}. The
119 Carbon Trust's report evaluated different technologies, including kiln energy recovery, heat pumps or
120 biomass burners as replacements for the heat energy used for kilning with regard to carbon emission
121 reduction and payback periods for the industry. Although various technologies significantly reduce
122 emission rates, not all of them are cost effective. Another option is the application of alternative heating
123 methods, such as: electromagnetic heating ⁶, microwave drying ⁹, drying with supercritical CO₂ ³⁶, or
124 freeze-drying ^{35, 37}. In spite of this research and technology innovations that have been implemented to
125 reduce specific energy usage across malting, there is still a demand to explore cost-effective
126 methodologies to reduce the environmental footprint associated with malting and brewing.

127 Omission of the kilning process

128 Omitting the kilning process, thus producing beer with green malt, is one potential route to reduce the
129 energy inputs required for malting. Additionally, de-carbonising and the reduction of primary energy
130 usage through e.g. biomass CHP or hydrogen power could sit alongside the adoption of green malt in
131 future strategy to meet environmental targets. Green malt differs from kilned malt in a number of
132 respects. Green malt is not coloured green, it is a term used to refer to undried germinating malt (Figure

133 1C). Apart from being a dominant consumer of heat and electricity, the kilning process has many beneficial
134 impacts on malt quality, which must be considered if it is to be omitted. These include reduction of
135 lipoxygenase activity^{19, 38-46}, regulation of S-methyl methionine (SMM) levels⁴⁷⁻⁵², facilitating rootlet
136 removal, diminishing unwanted “raw grain” characteristics¹⁴ and, most importantly, developing the
137 characteristic colour and flavours which malt imparts to beer. Furthermore, green malt, having a moisture
138 content between 38-46%, is unstable and cannot be stored for prolonged periods. On the other hand,
139 green malt is rich in β -glucanase⁵³⁻⁵⁵ and diastatic enzyme activity^{54, 56-58}, hence it can very efficiently
140 convert the starch of unmalted grains into fermentable sugars^{11, 12}. Additionally, by removing the kilning
141 process, the thermal heat load on malt is substantially reduced. As a consequence, green malt, is free of
142 DMSO^{50, 59}, and contains lower concentrations of thermally generated compounds such as Maillard
143 compounds or Strecker aldehydes, which are key agents in beer flavour change through shelf-life⁶⁰⁻⁶⁶. On
144 this basis, potential benefits regarding beer staling can be expected in beers brewed from green malt.
145 Table 1, compiled from multiple sources, provides a comparison between typical analytical specifications
146 of a well germinated green malt and the corresponding kilned pale lager malt, however, analytical
147 specifications of malts will vary depending on barley variety and malting protocol (temperature, time).

148
149 Well germinated green malt usually has a moisture content of 41-48%, depending on the malting
150 procedure. The high moisture content of green malt is a perfect environment for microorganisms, making
151 the grain unstable. The microbial growth on malt accelerates when stored at warm temperatures, for
152 example the doubling time of the filamentous fungus *Geotrichum candidum* was shown to be as fast as
153 1.7 h at 25°C and just 1.1 h at 30°C⁶⁷. Furthermore, moisture contents > 8% make the abrasion of rootlets
154 difficult⁶⁸. Malt rootlets are considered to impair the flavour of beer, therefore maltsters try to avoid
155 excessive rootlet growth during germination and remove the rootlets, by abrading them after kilning.
156 Thus, they form a malting loss of around 4%, usually sold as animal feed or organic fertilizer^{17, 31}. Rootlets
157 are low in phytic acid and polyphenols, but contain a high amount of fatty acids, tocopherols (Vit. E), B-
158 vitamins and proteins (10-35%)^{17, 69}, calcium (19.9 g/kg), as well as DMS precursor⁴⁸ and lipoxygenase⁴¹.
159 Rootlets of kilned malt are highly hygroscopic, due to their fibre content of up to 15%^{17, 69}. Apart from the
160 high water absorption they also highly absorb oil and have emulsification capacities³¹. However, malt
161 rootlets (as analysed in kilned malts) show a high antioxidant potential⁷⁰⁻⁷². The natural antioxidant
162 phenolic compounds could potentially reduce the formation of free radicals, thus favouring wort and beer
163 flavour stability. In the absence of a facile technique for rootlet removal from green malt, they are most

164 easily included in the brewing grist. Whilst this will lower malting losses, the foregoing quality issues
165 associated with rootlet usage need to be addressed, or better evaluated, across a range of beer styles.

166 Processing green malt

167 Microbiological Stability

168 The brewing process presents numerous hurdles to the survival of microorganisms, of which mashing,
169 wort boiling and the addition of hops, are considered the most effective. In addition, the composition of
170 beer, mainly the presence of alcohol and CO₂, a low level of O₂ and the acidic pH, provides a very hostile
171 environment for the growth of spoilage and pathogenic microorganisms^{73,74}. Wort, however, is a nutrient
172 rich medium and represents an excellent environment for the growth and proliferation of
173 microorganisms. The microbiology of malting and brewing is a complex topic, and little is known about
174 the microbial stability of wort and beer made of green malt. Most of the microflora on barley in the field
175 consists of bacteria (predominantly), wild yeast and filamentous fungi originating from the air and soil⁷⁵.
176⁷⁶. Microbial colonisation of the grain is generally restricted to the outer layers, namely husk and between
177 the husk and pericarp, although penetration into the endosperm does occur⁷⁷. Green malts are covered
178 in a complex microflora, with viable counts of various organisms that are 85-700 fold higher than
179 measured on the original barley⁷⁸⁻⁸¹, their growth stimulated by dissolved nutrients, moisture, warmth,
180 and aeration⁸⁰⁻⁸². Before drying, an average of tens of thousands of fungi, hundreds of thousands of yeasts
181 and millions of bacteria can be measured in just one gram of malting barley^{17,81}. Douglas and Flannigan
182⁷⁹ detected especially the yeast-like mould, *Geotrichum candidum*, in green malt. Usually, after kilning,
183 the majority of microorganisms are destroyed^{79-81,83}. Mostly lactobacilli⁸⁰ and aerobic heterotrophic
184 bacteria⁸¹ are still being detected afterwards and counts further decrease steadily during mashing, with
185 only thermotolerant microbes, such as homofermentative lactic acid bacteria⁸², persisting. Table 2
186 compares representative numbers of microbes on barley, green malt and kilned malt according to Petters
187 et al.⁸¹.

188 Whilst the hurdles presented by the brewing process would be expected to overcome this higher initial
189 presence of microbes and still present a sterile wort for colonisation with yeast, it is unclear whether the
190 increased microbial loading of green malt would have any negative impacts on wort or beer quality.
191 However, we do know that green malt as-is, is not microbiologically stable, hence it needs to be either
192 processed directly, by mashing-in immediately or by reducing its moisture content to a microbiologically
193 safe level (kilning, freeze-drying, electromagnetic heating) or alternative technologies^{6,9,84}. In general, it
194 is recommended to avoid making malts from barley that is heavily infected with fungi – this applies

195 especially to green malt brewing. It is recommended to store green malt cold and dry to reduce microbial
196 activity and stabilise enzymatic activity until the grain is further processed – the sooner the better. Longer
197 storage periods of green malt and the associated microbes present could greatly affect malt quality and
198 thus impact beer quality ⁸⁵⁻⁸⁷. Of particular concern are mycotoxins present on poor malts, which might
199 survive into the final beer ⁸⁶. Alternatively, it was suggested ¹⁵ to mix proportions of 10-20% green malt
200 with kilned malt or unmalted cereals, as the moisture content of the mixture would allow longer storage
201 periods than green malt alone. Furthermore, Peterreins and Van Waesberghe ⁸⁴ proposed two methods
202 that could be used to stabilise green malt; either by exposing the green malt to a brief heat shock by
203 applying water vapour or stabilising it with lactic acid bacteria at 45°C. Lactic acid bacteria and associated
204 antimicrobial metabolites could potentially inhibit the growth of bacteria or fungi ^{88,89}. These preserving
205 effects may be due not only to the end products of their fermentative activity, such as lactic acid, but also
206 to the formation of small, heat stable inhibitory peptides referred to as bacteriocins ⁹⁰.

207 Milling

208 One of the first challenges when handling green malt is its sensitivity to the milling procedure, due to the
209 high moisture content of green malt, hence it cannot be milled as for kilned malt. Previous studies ^{11-13, 16}
210 already proved that extracts of green malt with equal quality to kilned malt can be achieved, provided a
211 suitable mill is used. However, there is no general consensus on what is the most suitable milling
212 technique. S.R. Duff ¹¹ stated that higher extract yields are achievable by finely grinding the green malt.
213 Furthermore, better yields were obtained by using a hammer mill rather than a roller mill. Unfortunately,
214 no further information was given on the exact model or design of the hammer mill used in the study. In a
215 standard hammer mill steel beaters rotate at speeds between 60-100 m/s, to form small particles which
216 fall through holes in a sieve ³¹. Therefore, this approach seems not well suited for green malt at a moisture
217 content above 40%, as it would likely block the sieves. In general crushing rollers could be the most
218 suitable option for handling green malt. Pre-soaking of barley or green malt before milling increased yield
219 of extracts and facilitated the milling ^{12,13}, indicating that a wet milling system is a suitable technique for
220 processing green malt. About 20 years ago, Meura (Belgium) developed in collaboration with Castle
221 Malting (Belgium) the 'hydromill'; a disc mill which finely mills malt underwater, designed to process malts
222 with a high moisture content ^{15,91}. Recent pilot scale trials ⁹² indicated that green malt, used as 100% grist
223 material, can be successfully milled using the Meura 'hydromill'. However, the spongy and cohesive
224 structure of the resulting green malt mash caused significant losses of extract due to insufficient sparging
225 when using the membrane assisted thin bed filter (Meura 2001). Green malt used as 100% grist material
226 still poses a technical challenge for present day brewhouse designs. Probably by fine tuning of the liquor

227 to grist ratio or some optimisations in the mill design will enable to take full advantage of the highly
228 fermentable worts of green malt. Most practically, only proportions of green malt could replace kilned
229 malt to overcome the technical challenges faced.

230 Alternatively, standard kitchen meat grinders pose a more affordable option for homebrewers who would
231 like to experiment with this 'novel' grist material, provided of course that the meat grinder is solely used
232 for processing green malt (to avoid risks of cross contamination). Lars Marius Garshol⁹³ recently published
233 a book on ancient brewing traditions and techniques; amongst them, brewing with homemade green
234 (undried) rye malt, milled with an ordinary kitchen meat grinder and used as 100% grist material for
235 mashing.

236 Mashing

237 As already highlighted, the malting and brewing process can be considered as a sequential adding and
238 removing of water. If omitting the kilning process, thus brewing with green malt, the brewer could take
239 advantage of the increased moisture content in the grain, hence less brewing water will be needed for
240 mashing. However, brewing water adjustments are necessary to compensate for the increased water
241 content in green malt. This would imply a temperature increase of the brewing liquor used for mashing,
242 as well as lactic acid (pH regulation) and brewing salt addition (water hardness).

243 Filterability

244 As discussed previously, the thickness and structure of the (100%) green malt mash has caused filtration
245 and sparging difficulties in recent pilot scale brewing trials⁹². However, Castle malting's research team
246 has shown¹⁵ that by replacing 20% of pilsner malt with green malt to a cereal recipe containing 30%
247 unmalted barley, can significantly improve filterability. The resultant mash was filtered twice as efficient.
248 Therefore, green malt has the potential to compensate for the relatively high β -glucan levels of unmalted
249 cereals such as barley¹⁷, or poor malts (>250 mg/L β -glucan in the mash¹⁵), and thus, improve filterability.

250 Green malt's (bio)chemistry – the good and the bad

251 Diastatic enzyme activity

252 During malting, starch degrading enzymes, are formed. These include (i) α -amylase, which hydrolyses α -
253 (1-4) linkages in the long glucose chains of starch to yield smaller fragments (ii) β -amylase for the splitting
254 of maltose from the non-reducing chain end and (iii) limit dextrinase to hydrolyse α -(1-6) linkages which
255 form the branch points that are most prevalent in amylopectin molecules. The diastatic enzymes play a
256 key role in brewing during the mashing process, where the starch is gelatinised to enable access of the

257 starch hydrolysing enzymes. The enzymatic breakdown of starch into simpler sugars provides the major
258 energy source for the fermentation process. α -amylase is more thermostable than the other diastatic
259 enzymes^{54, 94, 95}. According to previous research^{54, 96}, kilning (80°C curing temperature) caused a
260 significant loss of diastatic power (15%), limit dextrinase activity (25%), while α -amylase decreased only
261 about 4% upon kilning. The thermosensitive β -amylase, on the other hand, suffered losses up to even 46%
262 of initial activity during malt kilning⁹⁷. Modern day breeding programs have ensured that elite barley
263 cultivars are rarely deficient in diastatic enzyme potential when malted and used as the main grist
264 component in brewing. However, the extra diastatic potential of green malt could favour the degradation
265 of starch of unmalted adjuncts into fermentable sugars, novel malted cereals lacking diastatic enzyme
266 activity (e.g. malted lentils⁹⁸) or potentially be suitable for shortening the total mashing time, and thus
267 further decreasing the total heat load.

268 β -glucanase activity

269 In addition to the diastatic enzymes, kilning causes significant losses of total β -glucanase activity^{53-55, 96}.
270 Previous research^{54, 96} highlighted that β -glucanase was reduced by 43-44% when curing at 80°C, an
271 inactivation that already started at the onset of kilning at a relatively low kilning temperature. Increasing
272 the curing temperatures, as expected, further caused enzymatic activity losses⁵⁴. Most of the necessary
273 cytolytic degradation of barley (1,3)(1,4)- β -D-glucans via β -glucanases occurs during malting. Thus
274 finished malts should contain low levels of β -glucan for a satisfactory brewing performance and to avoid
275 the process problems associated with the elevated content of β -glucan (poor lautering performance^{99, 100}
276 and colloidal (in) stability of the finished beer^{101, 102}). However, the increased β -glucanase content of green
277 malt can be advantageous when unmalted adjuncts form part of the grist material used for brewing.
278 Despite the enzymes heat-sensitivity and the recommendation to mash-in at >62°C to avoid LOX related
279 off-flavours (see upcoming section), when using green malt as part of the grist material, previous research
280^{53, 100} has demonstrated that significant quantities of β -glucanase can survive infusion mashing at 65°C. β -
281 glucanases were discussed to be protected from heat by high concentrations of protein, the association
282 with particles of malt or sugars¹⁰³, or reduced glutathione⁵³. Additionally, thick mashes can offer
283 protection to more fragile enzymes¹⁰⁴. Thus, when β -glucan is continuously released from its binding to
284 protein through the activity of the more heat stable β -glucan solubilase (inactivation temp. 73°C,¹⁰⁵)
285 during mashing, the malt β -glucanase can break down the β -glucan structure.

286 Anthocyanogenase

287 Claims have been made that beer produced from green malt and steeped barley has special advantages
288 in connection with haze stability ^{12, 68, 106}. MacWilliam et al. ¹² reported higher concentrations of
289 anthocyanogens in wort prepared from kilned malt than from green malt. Anthocyanogens are
290 polyphenolic compounds which play a role in the formation of chill haze in beer ¹⁰⁷. Green malt appears
291 to contain the enzyme anthocyanogenase which will hydrolyse or degrade the anthocyanogens into
292 simpler, less haze-inducing compounds ¹⁰⁸. Thus, the use of green malt for brewing might have beneficial
293 effects on colloidal stability and beer shelf life.

294 Lipoxygenase

295 **Significance to malting and brewing**

296 The theory of lipid oxidation has been thoroughly discussed in previous research papers ^{39, 41, 46, 109-116} and
297 reviews ^{64, 65, 117} and is an ongoing topic of research regarding the flavour stability of beer. In principle, a
298 distinction is made in the peroxidation of fats between light-assisted photo-oxidation, enzymatic
299 oxidation and finally radical autoxidation, although the products of all three reactions are partially similar
300 or even of the same nature. One of the key quality concerns when handling green malt is enzymatic lipid
301 oxidation (**Error! Reference source not found.**). Enzymatic lipid oxidation pathways are initiated by
302 lipoxygenases (LOX). The oxidative activity of LOX is not limited to the free fatty acids, thus if LOX is present
303 it can also oxidize the esterified fatty acids of the triacylglycerols and form lipid hydroperoxides, ultimately
304 resulting in hydroperoxy fatty acids ^{111, 118}. Subsequently, the hydroperoxy fatty acids can undergo further
305 degradations to mono-/di-trihydroxy fatty acids through several pathways ⁶⁴. The hydroxy fatty acids
306 remain present in the beer ¹¹⁹ or can, in the presence of oxygen, be further degraded non-enzymatically
307 to secondary metabolites known as ageing carbonyls; e.g. hexanal, *trans*-2-nonenal, which contribute to
308 the staling of beer ^{112, 118}. In particular, one aldehyde is intensively investigated: *trans*-2 nonenal ^{43, 64, 112,}
309 ^{115, 120, 121}. *Trans*-2-nonenal is a major component for cardboard stale flavours in beer ^{43, 112, 122} and has a
310 very low flavour threshold in the low ppb range (0.035 µg/L) ^{112, 123}. Furthermore, the amount of hexanal,
311 which is correlated with green/grassy scent and a bitter, winey flavour ¹²⁴, decreases with increasing malt
312 colour ¹²⁵. In pilsner malt worts it was found in concentrations up to 50% higher than in wort made of dark
313 malt samples ¹²⁵.

314 **Barley lipoxygenases**

315 In barley, around 3-4% of the dry matter is lipid, of which almost 60% is linoleic acid (C 18:2), making it
316 the major substrate for lipoxygenases ¹²⁶. However, the amount of free fatty acids in malt and barley is

317 quite low. Linoleic and linolenic acid constitute around 6% of the total fatty acid content in barley ¹²⁶,
318 around 70% are found as triglycerides and 20% as polar lipids (phospholipids and glycolipids) ¹²⁷.

319 The lipoxygenase activity in germinating malt is contributed by two LOX isoenzymes: LOX-1 and LOX-2 ³⁹,
320 ^{41, 45, 46, 118, 128}. LOX-1 mainly oxidizes linoleic acid to 9-hydroperoxyoctadeca-10-12-dienoic acid (9-HPOD),
321 whereas LOX-2 mainly forms 13-hydroperoxyoctadeca-9-11-dienoic acid (13 HPOD) from linoleic acid ⁴¹,
322 ^{45, 128-130}. LOX- 1 is already present in sound barley and increases in activity during germination, whereas
323 LOX-2 is solely formed during germination ^{39, 41, 128, 131}. During germination, both isoenzymes develop in
324 the newly synthesised rootlets (only LOX-2) and acrospire (both isoenzymes) tissue ⁴¹. LOX is relatively
325 unstable to thermal processing and the activity remaining after kilning is due to the somewhat more heat-
326 stable LOX-1 which is then transferred into the wort ^{39, 40}.

327 Despite numerous efforts, little is known specifically about LOX from barley and malt, compared to LOX
328 from other plants. As early as 1953, activities in different cereals including barley were measured ¹³¹. The
329 paper by Franke and Frehse showed that the activity from soybean far exceeds all other activities. Barley
330 contains only 1.2% LOX activity compared with the activity in soybean. This membrane-bound enzyme
331 had some similarities to LOX-1, such as its optimum pH, size, and preference to produce 13-hydroperoxy
332 linoleic acid ¹³². BLAST (Basic Local Alignment Search tool) alignment of amino acid sequences of LOX_{Soybean}
333 and LOX_{Barley}, showed a degree of sequence similarity of 52.6% ¹³³. Although there is (to the best of our
334 knowledge) no paper which explicitly proves the presence of bound state LOX in malt, it is reasonable to
335 assume that plant cells contain both soluble and membrane bound lipoxygenases ^{132, 134, 135}.

336 ***Lipoxygenase activities in green malt***

337 Huge attention has been paid as to the role of LOX in beer flavour stability. However, these studies focused
338 mainly on the LOX activity present in kilned malt, which is mainly contributed by the more heat stable
339 isoenzyme, LOX-1 ^{39, 40}. Kilning reduces - depending on the drying protocol and intensity - the lipoxygenase
340 enzyme activity by 96% of the initial activity found in green malt ¹³⁶. Hence, omitting the kilning step will
341 result in significantly higher lipoxygenase activities ^{41, 43, 110, 136} and the usage of green malt in conventional
342 brewing processes requires alternative techniques to reduce total LOX activity. An increase of LOX could
343 result in elevated “rancidity” in the final beer, caused both by LOX-1 but also LOX-2. Furthermore,
344 lipoxygenase worsens the foam stability of beer, possibly due to the production of trihydroxy
345 octadecenoic acid (THOD), which is detrimental to foam stability ^{137, 138}. If LOX activity can be minimized
346 at source, through adequate malting and/or mashing conditions, significant off-flavours in beer made

347 from green malt could be avoided. Therefore, it is important to understand the origin, development and
348 activity of LOX.

349 ***Considerations when brewing with green malt***

350 As already discussed, LOX is primarily destroyed during kilning. However, LOX is also proven to be pH
351 sensitive and requires oxygen as a substrate. Researchers do not agree on the exact pH optima of both
352 isoenzymes, but the general consensus is that the pH-optimum is on the alkaline side of typical wort pH.
353 The pH-optima for LOX- 1 were reported to be around 6.3-6.5^{41, 45} and even 7.5¹²⁸; 6.5⁴⁵ and pH 7.0-7.5
354¹²⁸ for LOX-2. LOX-1 shows only 50% activity remaining at a pH of 5 whereas LOX-2 shows an activity rate
355 close to zero, suggesting that LOX-2 is more pH sensitive than LOX-1^{39, 42, 43}. Another important criterion
356 to avoid LOX-related side effects is to perform the brewing process under oxygen-free conditions. Oxygen
357 is a substrate of LOX, hence oxygen and oxygen pick up should be avoided by all means when brewing
358 with green malt, especially during the mashing step. Based on the kinetic information available for LOX-
359 catalyzed reactions, it has been proposed¹³⁹, that the two substrates, unsaturated fatty acids as well as
360 oxygen, are the limiting factor for lipoxygenase activity.

361 An important factor when brewing with green malt, is to consider the high lipoxygenase activity from the
362 beginning of the process, meaning that milling and mashing need to occur in lipoxygenase hostile
363 environments: e.g. mashing in at > 62 °C, pH: 5.2, under oxygen-free conditions^{43, 66, 121, 136, 139}. Recent
364 laboratory scale trials⁵⁶ indicated that re-steeping of green malt in combination with a LOX hostile
365 mashing environment (62°C, pH 5.2 and oxygen-limited) could help to control LOX activity and the *trans*-
366 2-nonenal potential of green malt⁵⁶.

367 Even though there are a number of process controlling methods, when brewing with green malt, Null-LOX
368^{140, 141} or Low-LOX^{137, 138, 142, 143} barley cultivars offer a further possible solution. However, low LOX cultivars
369 need to be differentiated, because the term is principally used to refer to low LOX-1 cultivars, since LOX-
370 1 activity is the main problem in kilned malt. However, regarding green malt brewing, the activity of LOX-
371 2 should not be neglected. Beers made with a (kilned) lipoxygenase-1-less (LOX-less) malting barley variety
372 had reduced levels of beer-deteriorating substances, such as *trans*-2 nonenal and THOD compared to
373 beers made with the control malt^{137, 138, 142, 143}. The sensory evaluation results indicated that LOX-less
374 barley variety CDC PolarStar improved flavour stability without affecting other beer characteristics.
375 Carlsberg's research in partnership with Heineken has shown that brewing beer using null-LOX barley
376 minimises negative beer-staling components, provides stable, quality foam with no aged off-flavours, and
377 keeps its fresh flavour for longer. Although lipoxygenases can have adverse impacts on beer flavor
378 stability, the products of the LOX pathway play an important role in the plant itself. The physiological

379 function of LOX is associated with growth and development, mainly with lipid mobilisation (mainly via
380 LOX-2) during seed germination ¹⁴⁴, wound-induced or pathogen infection signaling for the local defense
381 reaction ¹⁴⁵ and participation in plant senescence ¹⁴⁶. However, since Null-LOX barley varieties are already
382 in commercial production without any reported adverse effects during plant growth it might be suggested
383 that these pathways are not insurmountable. Recent research confirmed ¹⁴⁷ that a total loss of LOX-1 and
384 LOX-2 function did not cause any obvious disadvantages for null-LOX cultivars over the traditional malt
385 barley cultivar, in terms of grain yield, yield components, grain size, grain protein content and water use
386 efficiency.

387 DMS and S-methyl methionine

388 Dimethyl Sulphide (DMS) is a highly volatile sulphur compound, with a boiling point of only 38°C. It has a
389 characteristic flavour and odour usually described by brewers as cooked corn or cabbage-like. Although
390 its odour plays an important role in some cooked vegetables, or contributes to the typical aroma of many
391 lager style beers ¹⁴⁸, in most other styles, or at an excessive level, DMS gives beer an undesirable flavour
392 ^{47, 149, 150}. The flavour threshold is approximately 30 µg/L; however, the overall liking and acceptance of
393 customers depends strongly on personal preferences. DMS originates from two possible precursors, S-
394 Methyl Methionine (SMM) ^{49, 51} and DMSO ^{52, 59}. During germination, SMM, the thermal precursor of DMS,
395 is produced from L-methionine and S-adenosyl-L-methionine catalyzed by L-methionine S-
396 methyltransferase (MMT) ^{51, 151}. During barley germination, both the specific activity and the amount of
397 MMT protein increase. SMM decomposes upon heating to yield free volatile DMS, and as a result, levels
398 in malt are strongly regulated by the kilning stage which first breaks down SMM and then strips DMS into
399 the exhaust gases ^{47, 48, 51, 152}. Besides SMM, as the thermal precursor of DMS, yeast can enzymatically
400 reduce DMSO to DMS ⁵⁹. However, through this pathway DMS cannot be readily removed and a high
401 proportion remains in the finished beer. DMSO can be formed by oxidation of DMS during kilning and
402 concentrations increase at higher kilning temperature ^{153, 154}.

403 Green malt is rich in S-methyl methionine ^{49, 50, 56}, not in DMSO ^{50, 59}, therefore the main focus when
404 brewing with green malt is on the SMM pathway. Interestingly, according to a study by White and
405 Wainwright ⁴⁹, beers brewed from green malt had low levels of DMS, despite the significantly higher DMS
406 potential, indicated by the high SMM levels in malt and wort (Section: Characteristics of wort and beers
407 made of green malt). Hence, DMS levels in the pitching wort can be controlled, provided that there is a
408 sufficient removal of DMS via evaporation during wort boiling and elimination through fermentation
409 gases. Even though those study outcomes seem very promising, regarding DMS in beer made of green
410 malt, the control of SMM-levels from the grist and throughout the process remains a significant issue to

411 control the potential for DMS formation. Precursor levels vary with the barley variety and depend on
412 malting parameters used for steeping and germination as well as the kilning regime. As summarised by
413 Bamforth⁴⁷ an enhanced germination, via higher temperatures or by the aid of gibberellic acid result in
414 increased SMM levels. On the other hand, inhibitors of germination, e.g. potassium bromate (outlawed in
415 foodstuffs in most countries), reduce embryo development and rootlet growth, hence lower SMM levels
416 in green malt¹⁵⁵. Interestingly the half-life of SMM at 100°C is 38 min at a pH of 5.2, whereas a half-life of
417 32.5 min is reported at a pH of 5.5, indicating that the chemical decomposition of SMM is not solely
418 temperature but also pH-sensitive¹⁵². Furthermore, the use of a wort stripper could help to remove
419 excessive DMS, but also purge other undesired volatiles¹⁵⁶. Additionally, attention should be paid to the
420 origin and localization of SMM in grist materials. SMM is mainly located in the seedling which is why wort
421 production after fine milling gives higher SMM levels than after coarse milling since the seedling remains
422 more intact after coarse milling of the malt. However, at the end of wort boiling, no differences in levels
423 of DMS precursor and free DMS were found between fine milled-thin bed mash filter operations and
424 coarse milled-lauter tun operations¹⁵⁷. Additionally Heineken and Carlsberg described barley plants with
425 combined traits of Null-LOX-1, Null-LOX-2 and NULL-MMT (L-methionine S-methyltransferase) within one
426 plant¹⁵⁸. Publications on brewing with green malt derived from malting the double-null-LOX-null-MMT
427 cultivar would be highly interesting regarding flavour and flavour stability.

428 Flavour and aroma compounds

429 Apart from being an abundant source of starch and enzymes, malt delivers a wide range of flavour and
430 aroma components, such as aldehydes, ketones, alcohols, organic acids and furans, to the wort and final
431 beer^{14, 18, 159-162}. The formation of flavour active compounds is largely promoted through thermally driven
432 processes, such as Strecker degradation, Maillard reaction or caramelisation. Thus, if omitting the kilning
433 process the brewer would introduce a grist material with a dissimilar mixture of volatile and non-volatile
434 constituents compared to kilned malt. It is generally accepted that fermentation is the process step that
435 most significantly determines finished beer flavour. However, green malt will most certainly induce subtle
436 flavour changes in beers, principally through its different chemical composition (compared to pale kilned
437 malt), acting as a feedstock for yeast metabolism. As apparent in Table 3, hot water extracts of green malt
438 contained a series of lipid-derived aldehydes and alkenols as well as sulphur compounds, while
439 concentrations in worts prepared from lightly kilned malt, were much lower¹⁴. Furthermore, traces of 4-
440 vinylphenol and 4-vinylguaiaicol were identified in a vacuum distillate of green malt. The final
441 concentrations in beer were, however, far below those produced from phenolic off-flavour (POF+)
442 producing yeasts. Moreover, malt is a major source of aldehydes, as well as aldehyde precursors and

443 intermediate products (e.g. amino acids, peptides, Schiff bases, bound state aldehydes, etc.)^{61, 159, 161, 163},
444 which were identified as contributors for stale flavour formation during beer ageing. The most important
445 staling aldehydes comprise i) Maillard reaction aldehydes (e.g. furfural), ii) Strecker degradation aldehydes
446 (e.g. 2-methylpropanal, 2-methylbutanal, 3-methylbutanal, methional, phenylacetaldehyde) and iii) fatty
447 acid oxidation aldehydes (e.g. hexanal and *trans*-2-nonenal)^{62, 64, 124, 164, 165}. The free aldehyde content in
448 malt, as well as the heat load (TB-Index) were positively correlated with the rate of beer ageing⁶³. These
449 aldehydes were shown to increase in concentration during sprouting¹⁵⁹, dependent on germination time
450 and temperature, according to Herrmann et al.¹⁶⁶. Higher green malt moisture significantly increased the
451 formation of malt volatiles, whereas high germination temperatures, on the other hand, lowered them
452¹⁶⁶. Kilning or roasting greatly promotes the formation of Maillard compounds and Strecker aldehydes^{19,}
453^{60, 61, 64-66, 115, 136, 159, 167, 168}. A wide range of Maillard compounds were determined in kilned, with only
454 furfural, 1-acetylfuran and furfuryl alcohol identified in green malt¹⁴. LOX enzymes are thermally
455 inactivated, thus a reduction in enzymatic oxidation of unsaturated fatty acids is expected particularly at
456 the onset of the wort production process. However, during malting LOX activity was shown previously¹⁶⁹
457 to increase mainly in the first 2 – 6 hours of kilning, thus the risk to oxidise lipids remains at moderate
458 kilning temperatures. Dong et al.¹⁵⁹, for example, showed that the *trans*-2-nonenal concentrations greatly
459 increased when producing crystal malts compared to the corresponding green malt. Thus, it might be
460 suggested that less *trans*-2-nonenal is introduced into the brewing process when using green malt.
461 Hexanal and 2-hexenal, which are correlated with green/grassy scent and a bitter, winey flavour¹²⁴, on
462 the other hand, were shown to be present in increased levels in green malt and decreased with increasing
463 malt colour^{125, 159}.

464 Overall, from the perspective of green malt brewing, less aldehydes are introduced into the brewing
465 process (except hexanal), thus, an improved endogenous ageing potential in green malt beers, may be
466 hypothesised and will be further discussed in the following section (Beer flavour (in)stability factors).
467 Further research is needed to define which of the flavour characteristics of green malt (in comparison to
468 pale kilned malt) survives up- and downstream processing and has a direct (positive or negative) effect on
469 the flavour and flavour stability of the finished beers.

470 Characteristics of wort and beer made from green malt

471 Early research on brewing with green malt^{11, 13, 14, 16} reported that worts and beers from 100% green malt
472 were perfectly normal in their analytical and physical characteristics. Unfortunately, in these papers no
473 detailed brewing protocol or assessment of the resulting beer flavour or its' stability were published. Since

474 most of the literature available on brewing with green malt dates back as early as the 1960's, there was
475 great interest for the scientific community for new research ⁹², particularly as analytical techniques have
476 greatly improved since then.

477 ***Wort characteristics***

478 Table 4 displays a summary of some characteristics of worts derived from green malt in comparison to
479 kilned malt wort. According to Macwilliam et al. ¹² the worts from green malt were more fermentable
480 than those from kilned malt. This was related to the higher activities of α - and β - amylase in addition to
481 the increased levels of limit dextrinase associated with green malt. Analysis of the wort carbohydrates
482 further confirmed very high values for maltose and maltotriose at the expense of dextrans. Furthermore,
483 proteolysis proceeded further when using green malt mashing than with conventional malts, which
484 explained the high values for both soluble and amino nitrogen (Table 4). The anthocyanogen content was
485 significantly lower in wort prepared from green malt than the control wort, possibly due to the still
486 functioning anthocyanogenase in green malt ^{12, 68, 106}. The relatively high colour of the green malt wort (8-
487 10 EBC, ¹²) compared to the reference (3 EBC) was associated with this increased concentration of amino
488 acids, which caused increased formation of melanoidins during wort production. Recently published
489 brewing trials ⁹², on the other hand, reported that the colour of worts prepared from green malt was lower
490 than the reference wort. However, EBC colour was not reduced as much as might have been predicted for
491 green malt brews and the yellow colour could have potentially originated from polyphenols or riboflavin
492 present in malt ⁶⁸.

493 Interestingly, previous studies ^{49, 92} concluded that worts from green malt resulted in (expected) elevated
494 DMS precursor levels, but surprisingly low levels of DMS in the pitching worts. White and Wainwright ⁴⁸,
495 on the other hand, reported DMS levels up to 500 $\mu\text{g/L}$ in green malt pitching wort (no precursor levels
496 reported).

497 Furthermore, it was found that the use of undried malts can have benefits in terms of hop economy.
498 According to previous research ^{106, 170}, the amount of humulone and isohumulone absorbed on the break
499 of 'unkilned' malt wort was considerably less than on that of kilned malt wort.

500 ***Beer characteristics***

501 Table 5 displays a summary of some characteristics of beers derived from green malt in comparison to
502 kilned malt beers. Previous work has confirmed that the EBC colour was not reduced as much as might
503 have been predicted for green malt brews ^{16, 92}. The origin of the unique pigments, hue and chroma yet

504 has to be determined. Furthermore, due to the high dimethyl sulphide (DMS) potential, overall DMS levels
505 were expected to be higher compared to the control. Previous research ^{48, 49, 92} indicated that wort of
506 green malt contains high concentrations of the DMS-precursor S-methyl methionine; however, DMS levels
507 in final beers made of green malt were not higher than in beers prepared from pale kilned malt ^{48, 49, 92}. It
508 is remarkable to note that the elevated DMS levels (up to 500 µg/L) in worts as reported by White and
509 Wainwright ⁴⁹ were gradually eliminated with the fermentation gases and resulted in DMS levels in beers
510 closely matched to the control. Thus, it appears that DMS levels in finished beers can be controlled even
511 when using green malt, given a sufficient removal of DMS via evaporation during wort boiling and through
512 elimination of fermentation gases.

513 Even though these results seem very promising for the successful brewing of green malt there were still
514 some substantial flavour differences that yet must be defined. Early studies ^{13, 16} who described 100%
515 green malt beer, rather vaguely described their beer brewed from green malt 'green-malt-like'. The
516 intensity of 'green flavour' increasing with increasing malt germination time. The flavour was further
517 described as 'unpredictable', meaning that it was sometimes clean and other times 'green' ¹³. The precise
518 nature and sensory stimuli causing this reported 'green' sensation in green malt beers were not defined,
519 but it is likely that these 'green' flavour is related to lipid-derived aldehydes abundantly present in green
520 malt, as discussed previously ¹⁴. Moir et al. ¹⁴ detected a grassy, beany taste in beers made of green malt,
521 and proposed that this could have been a result of elevated levels of lipid-derived aldehydes. Although
522 yeast is able to remove these aldehydes by reducing them to their saturated alcohol counterparts, the
523 green grassy, pea-like character remained to some extent in green malt beer, with elevated amounts of
524 1-hexanol (reduction of hexanal and 2-hexanal) being detected ¹⁴. Another possible route to explain the
525 green flavours are the high number of alkenols found in green malt wort, formed by the action of a
526 thermo-labile reductase. Yeast is not able to reduce the alkenols, which then remain in the beer ¹⁴.

527 Beer flavour (in)stability factors

528 Without the high temperatures from kilning, the heat load of the malt and future mash, wort and beer
529 will be significantly lower. Additionally, the extra enzymatic potential of green malt, could potentially be
530 suitable for reducing overall mashing process time, and thus implies additional reduction in total heat
531 load. Heat load, expressed as TB-index, was correlated with the formation of beer staling compounds and
532 reduced beer freshness ^{19, 60, 63, 64}. Thus, as discussed previously (Section: Flavour and aroma compounds)
533 from the perspective of green malt brewing, less aldehydes are introduced into the brewing process
534 (except hexanal). It is generally accepted that these aldehydes are greatly evaporated throughout wort

535 production (except of furfural)¹⁶¹ and yeast metabolism can reduce aldehydes in the wort to their
536 corresponding alcohols ^{171, 172}. However, aldehydes can bind to compounds such as bisulphites ^{173, 174}
537 amino acids (formation of imines) ^{112, 173} or cysteine ¹⁷⁵⁻¹⁷⁸ during the wort production process, forming
538 non-volatile 'bound-state aldehydes'. The current theory is that during beer storage, under specific
539 conditions (temperature, pH value, redox potential, binding strength, thermodynamic stability), adducts
540 may dissociate and release aldehydes in the free form ^{66, 112, 171, 173, 174, 177, 179-181}. Naturally, the formation of
541 bound-state aldehydes is very complex, but in principle, fewer aldehydes might be available for adduct
542 formation during the wort production process when using green malt, and thus, an improved endogenous
543 ageing potential in green malt beers, may be hypothesised.

544 Furthermore, several authors ¹⁸²⁻¹⁸⁴ suggested that an increased formation of Maillard reaction products
545 was associated with an acceleration of oxidative processes, and thus lower oxidative stability. Kunz et al.
546 showed ¹⁸⁵, that when using unmalted barley (lower total heat load) a lower content of specific Maillard
547 reaction products led to a lower radical generation and thus better oxidative stability in the worts and
548 beers measured. Green malt contains fewer Maillard reaction products due to the omission of the heating
549 step, thus better oxidative stability might be expected in green malt wort and beer according to this
550 hypothesis. Moreover, the pool of natural antioxidants which is enhanced in green malt could ¹⁸⁶
551 potentially reduce the formation of free radicals. Hence, from this perspective, green malt wort could
552 have a better oxidative stability than kilned malt wort, provided lipoxygenase activity can be controlled.

553 Transition metal ions, such as iron, copper and manganese, were identified to play a key role in the
554 oxidative degradation of wort and beer, as they drive formation of reactive oxygen species (ROS) in the
555 absence of antioxidants ^{187, 188}. Increased heat load on malt through kilning or roasting was shown to
556 impact the content of transition metals with prooxidative effects in the wort ¹⁸⁹⁻¹⁹². Thus, it would be very
557 interesting to further investigate the ionic composition and thus influence on oxidative stability when
558 using green malt as the grist bill.

559 Furthermore, lower heat loads during brewing have been associated with improved free amino acid (FAN)
560 assimilation during fermentation ¹⁹³, resulting in lower residual FAN levels in finished beers, which was
561 associated with an improved beer flavour stability.

562 Overall, green malt appears to be a very promising grist material to produce wort and beer with enhanced
563 flavour stability metrics – provided lipoxygenase activity is controlled.

564 Industrial application of green malt in the brewing process

565 Malts with high enzyme contents have always been of interest to the brewer for the conversion of
566 adjuncts in the mash. Thus, green malt could be used to complement both conventional malts and in
567 processes utilising very high proportions of unmalted starch or raw grains ¹¹⁻¹³. Experiments were
568 described, in which green malt was successfully used for brewing acceptable potable stout (20-80% green
569 malt ¹¹), as proportion to 50% wheat flour ^{12, 13}, 50% raw barley ^{12, 13} and 75% presteeped barley ^{12, 13}.
570 Furthermore, Boston Beer Company and Weihenstephan brewery in Freising (Germany), brewed a
571 champagne like beer with around 10% ABV, found on the market under the name Infinium. They
572 developed and patented ¹⁹⁴ a brewing process by taking advantage of the high enzymatic activity in green
573 malt to brew a pale coloured beer, with a high alcohol content, strictly under the German Purity law (with
574 no use of exogenous enzymes).

575 Recent pilot scale brewing trials ⁹² confirmed that beer without any significant taints of obvious defects
576 can be prepared from 100% green malt. Naturally, the sensory profile and consumer acceptance still needs
577 to be investigated, however, there is great potential for the industry to create a new market for green
578 malt beers, as opposed direct flavour match to existing kilned malt beers. As consumer awareness and
579 thus the demand for energy and water efficient products increases, there is the opportunity to market an
580 environmentally friendly beer.

581 One widely acknowledged barrier to developing brewing processes using green malt is the instability of
582 the raw material, biochemically and microbially, and thus limitations on its storage. To overcome these
583 factors, malt production sites would need to be in close proximity to, and co-ordinated with, brewery
584 production. Clearly these conditions do not apply to many current brewery sites, which would represent
585 a limitation on the uptake of these approaches. One possible solution to overcome the instability issue
586 would be the production of malt extracts. The traditional approach with malt extract production is to
587 concentrate sweet wort, normally of kilned malt, under reduced pressure. The wort is further
588 concentrated via flash- evaporation. By using green malt rather than kilned malt, this process would be a
589 more economical alternative, due to the omission of kilning. A similar suggestion has been made by
590 Peterreins and Van Waesberghe ⁸⁴, who suggested the production of wort/malt extract or wort granulates
591 through stabilised green malt. Shortages in mash tun capacity could be compensated for when using malt
592 extract, or it could be used as a source of extract in some small breweries or temporary breweries.

593 Green malt has also been used in other alcoholic beverage production such as in whisky and vodka
594 distilleries to avoid the cost of kilning and to take advantage of the full range of enzymes that are present.

595 This can assist with the digestion of other starchy materials which form the majority of the grist but are
596 relatively deficient in diastatic enzymes, as is the case in grain whisky production. Coppersea Distilling
597 (New York) for example used rye green malt to produce their first whiskies, while not having a kiln in situ.

598 Summary

599 This review placed emphasis on developing enabling technologies for green malt brewing which would
600 lower the carbon footprint of beer production. Successful technical solutions must meet several criteria;
601 they must be widely applicable, profitable to the maltsters and brewers, and, most importantly, must
602 produce beers which taste good and meet consumer expectations for the category. General principles,
603 which could form a basis for future studies on successfully brewing with green malt, are highlighted here:

- 604 • Green malt should be stored cold and dry to reduce microbial activity and stabilise enzymatic
605 activity until the grain is further processed – the sooner the better. It is either necessary to prepare
606 malt/wort extract or to process rapidly by having a brewery and maltings co-located (transport of
607 the high moisture commodity is not feasible). Longer storage periods of green malt and the
608 associated microbes present could greatly affect malt quality and thus impact beer quality⁸⁵⁻⁸⁷.
- 609 • Pre-soaking of the grain increases the extract yield and facilitated milling, suggesting a wet milling
610 system is a suitable technique for milling the green malt^{12, 13}. Meura (Belgium) developed in
611 collaboration with Castle Malting (Belgium) the ‘hydromill’; a disc mill which finely mills malt
612 under water, designed to process malts with a high moisture content^{15, 91}. On small scale,
613 (home)brewers could use an ordinary kitchen meat grinder⁹³.
- 614 • The malt and the milling installation should be sparged with CO₂ or N₂ to suppress enzymatic
615 oxidation via LOX enzymes throughout the wet milling process.
- 616 • Replacing 20% of pilsner malt with green malt to a cereal recipe containing 30% unmalted barley,
617 was shown to significantly improve filterability¹⁵.
- 618 • The increased moisture content in the grain, means that less brewing water will be needed for
619 mashing. However, the brewing liquor used for mashing needs to be appropriately adjusted (e.g.
620 adjustment of temperature, calcium and lactic acid addition) to account for the extra water in the
621 grain.
- 622 • According to previous research¹², only 5% of green malt is needed to solubilise and convert the
623 carbohydrate of gelatinised barley. Thus, when brewing with 100% green malt (at optimal
624 technical conditions), it might be necessary to reduce the times spent at the ~62°C (mashing) rests

625 to strike the proper balance between fermentable and non-fermentable sugars. This could help
626 to build a little more body to the beer.

- 627 • The EBC colour of beers produced from green malt was not reduced as much as might have been
628 predicted for green malt brews^{12, 16, 92}. Most practically, green malt would be used as a proportion
629 of the grist and would, for example, be accompanied by small complements of roasted malts from
630 which the colours and flavours of different beer styles would most economically be derived.
- 631 • Lipoxygenase activity should be controlled in order to avoid an increase in the staling potential of
632 the final beer^{39, 43}, as well as impaired foam stability^{137, 138}. Thus, mashing should be performed
633 under LOX hostile mash conditions: > 62 °C, pH: 5.2, oxygen-free^{43, 66, 121, 136, 139}.
- 634 • LOX-less^{137, 138, 142, 143} or Null-LOX^{140, 141} barley varieties might offer advantages for brewing with
635 green malt. Particularly in breweries where LOX-hostile conditions cannot be applied or additional
636 costs for CO₂ injection want to be avoided.
- 637 • Previous research indicated that wort of green malt contains high concentrations of DMS-
638 precursor, however, against expectations DMS levels in beer made of green malt were not higher
639 than beers made of pale lager malt^{48, 49, 92}. It appears that DMS levels in pitching wort can be
640 controlled even when using green malt, given a sufficient removal of DMS via evaporation during
641 wort boiling and through elimination in fermentation gases.
- 642 • The use of a wort stripper, could help to remove excessive DMS¹⁵⁶, and also purge other undesired
643 volatiles, such as lipid-derived aldehydes or alkenols (grassy, beany taste) resulting from green
644 malt¹⁴. In addition, an oversized chimney with condensate trap supports the removal and similarly
645 prevents re-entrance of unwanted volatiles (e.g. DMS) during wort boiling¹⁵⁷.
- 646 • Additionally, Heineken and Carlsberg described barley plants with combined traits of Null-LOX-1,
647 Null-LOX-2 and NULL-MMT (L-methionine S-methyltransferase) within one plant¹⁵⁸. This barley
648 variety avoids both LOX related off-flavour development but also suppresses DMS formation.
- 649 • The heat load of the malt and future mash, wort and beer made of green malt is significantly lower
650 than for kilned malt beers and thus, an improved endogenous ageing potential in green malt
651 beers, may be hypothesised:
 - 652 ○ Reduction of free staling aldehydes in the malt (particularly Maillard compounds and
653 Strecker aldehydes)^{19, 60, 61, 64-66, 115, 136, 159, 167, 168}.
 - 654 ○ Lower chance of aldehyde adduct formation during the wort production process and thus
655 lower release of free aldehydes during beer storage (?)

- 656 ○ The reduced content of specific Maillard reaction products in green malt could lower
657 radical generation and thus improve oxidative stability in the worts and beers ¹⁸²⁻¹⁸⁵
- 658 ○ Improved free amino acid (FAN) assimilation during fermentation, hence lower residual
659 FAN levels in the finished beers ¹⁹³.
- 660 ○ Furthermore, kilning or roasting was shown to impact the content of transition metal ions
661 with prooxidative effects in the wort ¹⁸⁹⁻¹⁹². Thus, it would be very interesting to further
662 investigate the transition metal ion composition in wort and thus influence on oxidative
663 stability when using green malt as the grist bill.

664 Future work

665 Brewing with green malt represents a disruptive technology and multiple factors need to be considered
666 to successfully brew with this ‘novel’ grist material. Most importantly, future research should focus on
667 maximising the efficiency of brewing operations with green malt and the production of beers which are
668 palatable for the consumer. This implies firstly the development of optimal processing of green malt,
669 without any yield losses during filtration and sparging of the green malt ‘cake’. Potentially, by technical
670 optimisation of the milling system, or adjustment of the liquor to grist ratio, thus achieving a mash with
671 optimal composition for the mash filter, these challenges can be overcome, and yield can be maximised.
672 Furthermore, green malt beers should be subjected to detailed sensory analysis to collect flavour
673 descriptors from a professional sensory panel, as well as consumer response. Brewing a pale lager-style
674 beer with 100% green malt is most challenging technically. Most practically green malt could be used as
675 a proportion of the grist and would, for example, be accompanied by small complements of kilned or
676 roasted malts from which the colours and flavours of different beer styles would most economically be
677 derived.

678 Conclusions

679 Despite all of the (theoretical) biochemical issues associated with green malt brewing, several researchers
680 ^{11, 13, 14, 16, 92} have reported that beers brewed from 100% green malt were perfectly normal in their
681 analytical and physical characteristics. The operating environment for the sector will increasingly
682 necessitate that all options to improve the overall carbon footprint of malting and brewing are evaluated;
683 either by using alternative low carbon fuels, novel drying technologies or by partially replacing kilned malt
684 with green malt. Additionally, de-carbonising and reduction of primary energy usage can sit alongside
685 adoption of green malt in future strategy to meet environmental targets. Nowadays, consumers are
686 increasingly motivated to be more environmentally conscious and are exercising their power and voice

687 through the products they buy. This may develop a market for green malt beers based around perceptions
688 of their being environmentally friendly. As has been the case with the growing low or non-alcoholic beer
689 market, the perceived benefits associated with a category may mean that a group of consumers are willing
690 to accept, or even promote the virtues of a green malt beer, even where there is not a direct colour or
691 flavour match with existing products. Moreover, brewing with green malt has the potential to advance
692 current knowledge of the impacts of raw materials on beer staling, particularly regarding the impacts of
693 malt kilning on downstream flavour (in)stability.

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695 *Celina Dugulin*: PhD student. Research and writing – original draft of this review.

696 *Gert De Rouck*: Funding acquisition, conceptualisation and writing – review and editing.

697 *David Cook*: Funding acquisition, supervision of PhD, conceptualisation and writing – review and
698 editing.

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702

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1222 Tables

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Table 1
Representative analysis of green malt and pale kilned malt

	green malt	kilned malt
MC ^a (%)	41.3*	3.7
Hot water extract ^a (l°/kg)	308	305
Cold water extract ^a (%)	19.4	19.5
Diastatic Power ^a (°L)	131	98
Nitrogen ^a (%)	1.59	1.55
SMM (mg/kg d.m.)	10-30 ^b , 50-60 ^c , 12.6 ^d	1.5-6.1 ^b , 10-20 ^c , 2.6 ^d
DMSO (mg/kg d.m.)	0 ^c , 0.28 ^e ,	5.2-9.3 ^c , 3.2-14.7 ^f
Total LOX activity (U/g d.m.)	27.5 ^d , 12.6 ^g , 25-33 ^h	1.6 ^d , 0.3 ^g , 0.1-0.5 ^h
α-amylase activity (CU/g d.m.)	217 ^d	211 ^d
β-amylase activity (BU/g d.m.)	15.3 ^d	9.7 ^d

1226 ^a MacWilliam et al. ¹⁶ green malt was freeze dried before analysis, *moisture content before freeze drying;

1227 ^b White and Wainwright ⁵¹, S-methyl methionine; ^c Yang et al. ⁵⁰; ^d Dugulin et al. ⁵⁶ CU = Ceralpha Units; BU

1228 = Betamyl-3[®]Units; ^e Anness et al. ⁵⁹; ^f Yang et al. ⁵²; ^g E. D. Baxter ⁴⁶; ^h Yang and Schwarz ³⁹

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Table 2
Representative numbers of microbes in/on barley, green malt and kilned malt ⁸¹

	barley (dry)	green malt (5 days)	kilned malt
Nr. of aerobic heterotrophic bacteria/ kernel or ml	1.8 x 10 ⁶	5.7 x 10 ⁷	5.6 x 10 ⁶
Nr. of lactobacilli/ kernel or ml	2.0 x 10 ²	8.7 x 10 ⁶	1.6 x 10 ⁵
Nr. of filamentous fungi/kernel or ml	2.0 x 10 ²	1.5 x 10 ²	2.0 x 10 ²
Nr. of yeasts/ kernel or mL	4.7 x 10 ³	3.9 x 10 ⁶	3.2 x 10 ⁴

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1234 **Table 3: Lipid derived aldehydes, alkenols, sulphur compounds and phenols from malts indicated as relative amounts in each malt, according**
 1235 **to Moir and co-workers ¹⁴. GM = green malt, KM = kilned malt**

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	Lipid-derived aldehydes		Alkenols		Sulphur compounds		Phenols				
	GM	KM	GM	KM	GM	KM	GM	KM			
hexanal	+++	+	3-hexen-1-ol	+++	++	dimethyl sulphide (DMS)	+++	+	4-vinylguaiacol	++	++
2,4-decadienal	+++	++	2-nonen-1-ol	+++		2-methylthioacetaldehyde	++	+	4-vinylphenol	+	
2-hexenal	++	+	1-penten-3-ol	++		methional	++	+	phenol		
heptanal	++		2-penten-1-ol	++		4-methylthio-2-butanone		+	o-cresol		
2,4 heptadienal	++		2-hepten-1-ol	++		3-methylthiohexanal			p-cresol		
2-octenal	++		2,4-decadien-1ol	++					2-ethylphenol		
nonanal	++		2-hexen-1-ol	+					4-ethylphenol		
2-nonenal	++	++	1-octen-3-ol	+					4-ethylguaiacol		
2,6- nonedienal	++		2-octen-1-ol	+					eugenol		
2-butenal	+								isoeugenol		
2-heptenal	+	++									
2,4-nonadienal	+	+									

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Table 4
Representative analysis of worts prepared from green malt and pale kilned malt

	green malt	kilned malt
Specific gravity ^a	1028	1028
ph wort	5.75-6.0 ^a , 5.32 ^b , 5.4 ^e	5.6 ^a , 5.12 ^b , 5.2 ^e
Colour	8-10 ^a , 6.2-10 ^e	3 ^a , 9.6-12.2 ^e
Nitrogen (mg/100 ml) wort ^a	60-75	40
Amino nitrogen (% of total) ^a	40	33
Fermentability ^a	86	75
Carbohydrate recovery (%) ^a	99	98
Anthocyanogen (unit not defined) ^a	0.05-0.15	0.45
Attenuation limit corrected to 1055 in wort ^b	1011.6.	1011.0
DMS (µg/L)	150-236 ^c , 100-500 ^d , 50-150 ^e	78-260 ^c , 6-16 ^d , 50-120 ^e
DMS-P (µg/L)	822-1022 ^c , 230-540 ^e	271-656 ^c , 50-610 ^e

1240 ^a MacWilliam et al. ¹², ^b Duff SR ¹¹, ^c White and Wainwright ⁴⁹, ^d White and Wainwright ⁴⁸, ^e Dugulin et al. ⁹²

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Table 5
Selected analytical data for beers brewed from green malt and pale kilned malt

	green malt	kilned malt
pH	4.01 ^a , 4.2 ^e	3.98 ^a , 4.4 ^e
Colour (EBC)	11 ^{b*} , 12 ^{b\$} , 6.1-8.5 ^e	9 ^{b*} , 15 ^{b\$} , 7.4-11.5 ^e
Specific gravity ^b	3.03 [*] , 3.01 ^{\$}	4.38 [*] , 4.04 ^{\$}
Head retention (half life, sec.) ^b	89 [*] , 92 ^{**} , 91 ^{\$}	98 [*] , 81 ^{**} , 106 ^{\$}
Limiting attenuation ^a	1011.8 – 1013.0	1011.5
Total carbohydrate ^b	13.3	16.7
Residual fermentable sugars (g/L) ^b	1.1	2.8
Non-fermentable carbohydrate (g/L) ^b	12.2	13.9
Nitrogen (g/L)	0.72-0.80 ^a , 0.54 ^{b*} , 0.53 ^{b\$}	0.68 ^a , 0.62 ^{b*} , 0.65 ^{b\$}
DMS (µg/L)	31-38 ^c , 30-70 ^d , 15-30 ^e	61-84 ^c , 50-95 ^d , 15-30 ^e
DMS-P (µg/L) ^e	100-170	30-60

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^a Duff ¹¹, limiting attenuation and nitrogen content corrected to an original gravity of 1055, ^b MacWilliam et al. ¹⁶ * = at bottling, **5 weeks after bottling, ^{\$} draught, ^c White and Wainwright ⁴⁹, ^d White and Wainwright ⁴⁸, Dugulin et al. ⁹²

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1250 Figures

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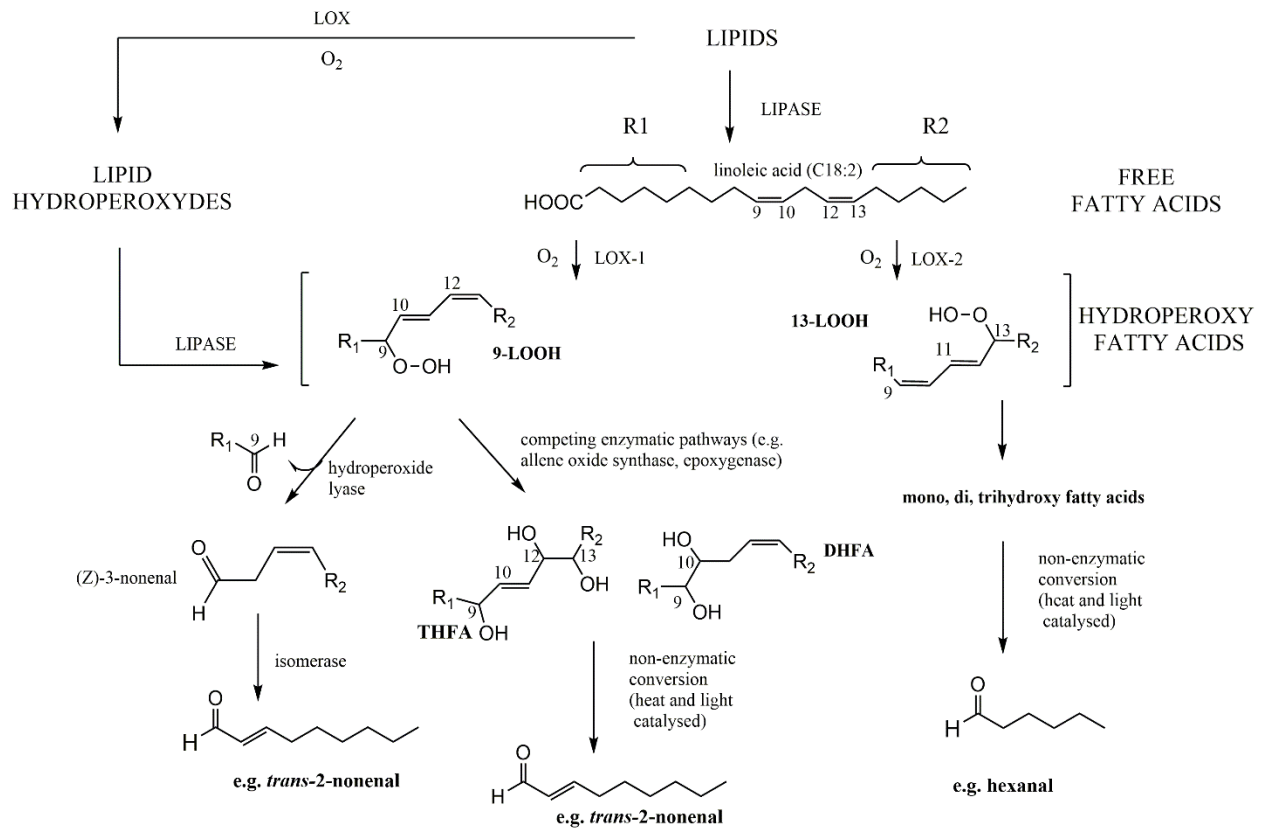
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1254 Figure 1: Growth of the barley kernel (A) barley after the first steep, (B) appearance of the first rootlet
1255 (chit malt) and onset of germination, (C) well-germinated green malt with rootlets

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1260 **Figure 2:** Suggested pathways for the formation of hydroperoxyl fatty acids through autooxidation and
 1261 enzymatic activity of lipase and lipoxygenase according to Kobayashi et al.¹¹⁶ and the subsequent
 1262 formation of *trans*-2-nonenal and hexanal through some suggested pathways^{64, 65, 114, 116}; THFA =
 1263 trihydroxy fatty acids; DHFA = dihydroxy fatty acids

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