



# STARCH GELATINIZATION: A KEY STEP IN EFFICIENT ETHANOL PRODUCTION

5th Annual James B. Beam Institute Industry Conference  
March 13, 2024

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# IFF IS NO LONGER JUST INTERNATIONAL FLAVORS & FRAGRANCES



Doing more good by broadening our offerings in naturals, health & wellness, and nutrition and meeting the wide needs of customers for food & beverage solutions.

# AGENDA

## What is Starch Gelatinization?

- What happens in gelatinization?
- How is starch converted to fermentable sugar?

## Gelatinization Temperature Variability

- Natural variation
- Impact of drought

## Addressing Grain Variability in Your Distillery

- RVA Analysis
- Iodine Check

## Case Study

- Rye Analysis (RVA Analysis, Iodine Check, Enzyme Addition)

# WHAT IS STARCH GELATINIZATION?

# THREE STEPS TO FERMENTABLE SUGARS

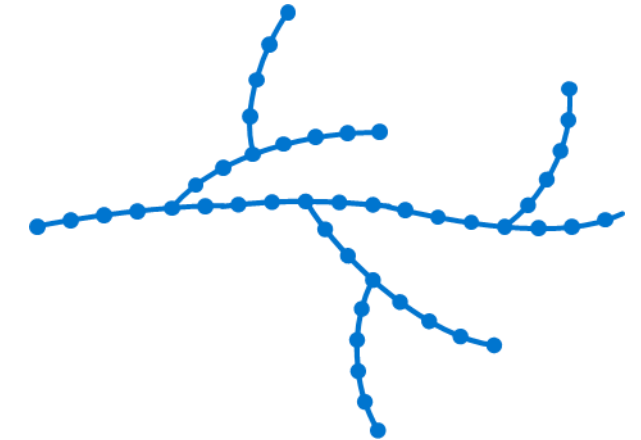
Gelatinization must come first

Step	Input	Output	Enzyme
1. GELATINIZATION	Water, Heat	Soluble Starch	No Enzyme
2. LIQUEFACTION	Enzymes	Dextrin	<b>Malt:</b> Alpha Amylase <b>Commercial:</b> Alpha amylase
3. CONVERSION	Enzymes	Fermentable Sugars	<b>Malt:</b> Beta amylase*, limit dextrinase**, alpha-glucosidase**  <b>Commercial:</b> Glucoamylase, pullulanase

6



Amylose



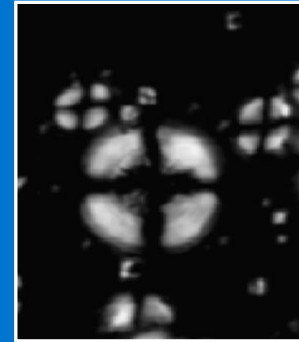
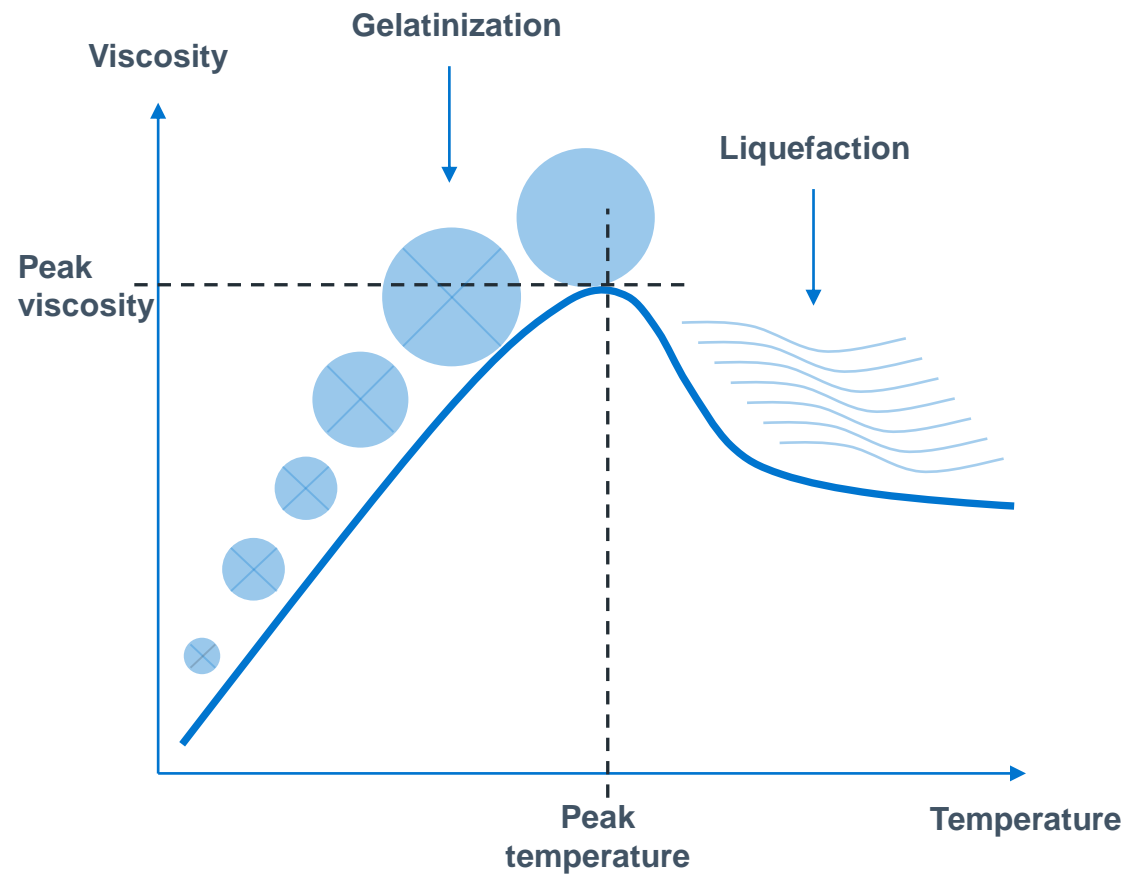
Amylopectin

\*=heat sensitive

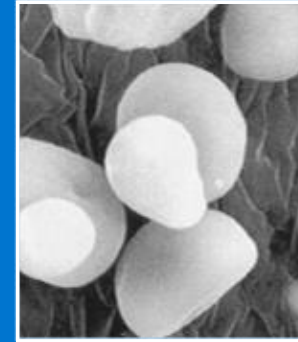
\*\*= limited activity, if any, in malt



# WHAT HAPPENS DURING GELATINIZATION?



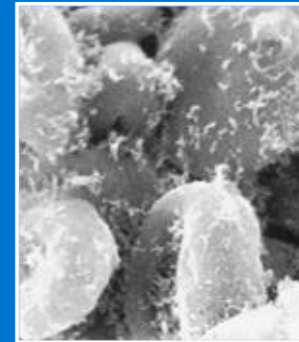
Birefringence



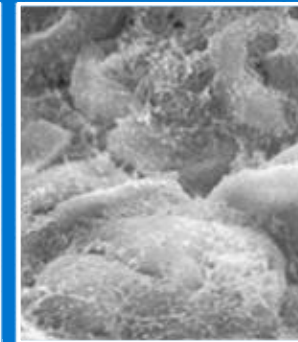
Uncooked  
cornstarch



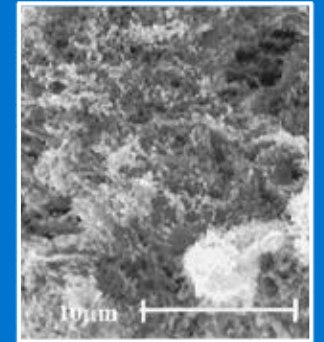
Heated to 75° C



Heated to 85° C



Heated to 90° C



Heated to 95° C

# GELATINIZATION TEMPERATURE VARIABILITY



# WHAT IS THE CORRECT GELATINIZATION TEMP?

## Gelatinization temperature of starches from select plants

The following table summarizes the gelatinization temperature of various

Source	Gelatinization temperature
Wheat	124–140°F (51–60°C)
Barley	124–140°F (51–60°C)
Corn	144–162°F (62–72°C)
Triticale	131–144°F (55–62°C)
Rice	154–172°F (68–78°C)
Rye	124–140°F (51–60°C)
Sorghum	154–172°F (68–78°C)
Potato	140–149°F (60–65°C)
Tapioca	153–158°F (67–70°C)

Gelatinization temperature		
	°C	°F
Maize	62-74	144-165
Rice	65-81	149-178
Sorghum	66-75	156-167
Millet*	54-80	129-176
Cassava	68-90	154-194
Wheat	52-64	126-147
Oat	56-62	133-144
Rye	63-72	145-162
Barley	60-67	140-153
Malted barley	60-67	140-153

Source	Gelatinisation Temperature (°C)	Shape
Barley	61-62	Round/ Lenticular
Wheat	52-54	Round/ Lenticular
Maize	70-80	Round/ Polygonal
Rice	70-80	Polygonal/ Compound
Sorghum	70-80	Round/ Polygonal
Oats	55-60	Polygonal/ Compound
Rye	60-65	Spherical/ Lenticular

Small starch granules of barley gelatinise at 75-80°C

- Each starch has its own gelatinization temperature.
- These temperatures will not be consistent across these references due to shifting climates during the growth of the grains.

## Is your mash temperature high enough?

# VARIABILITY IN GELATINIZATION TEMPERATURE

Driven by many factors

GELATINIZATION TEMPERATURE IS VARIABLE DUE TO:

- Variety
- Year
- Growing region
- Growing conditions
- Drought, incl.
  - Heat stress
  - Moisture stress

As a buyer, it is challenging to know the exact gelatinization temperature. It is not normally provided in a COA.

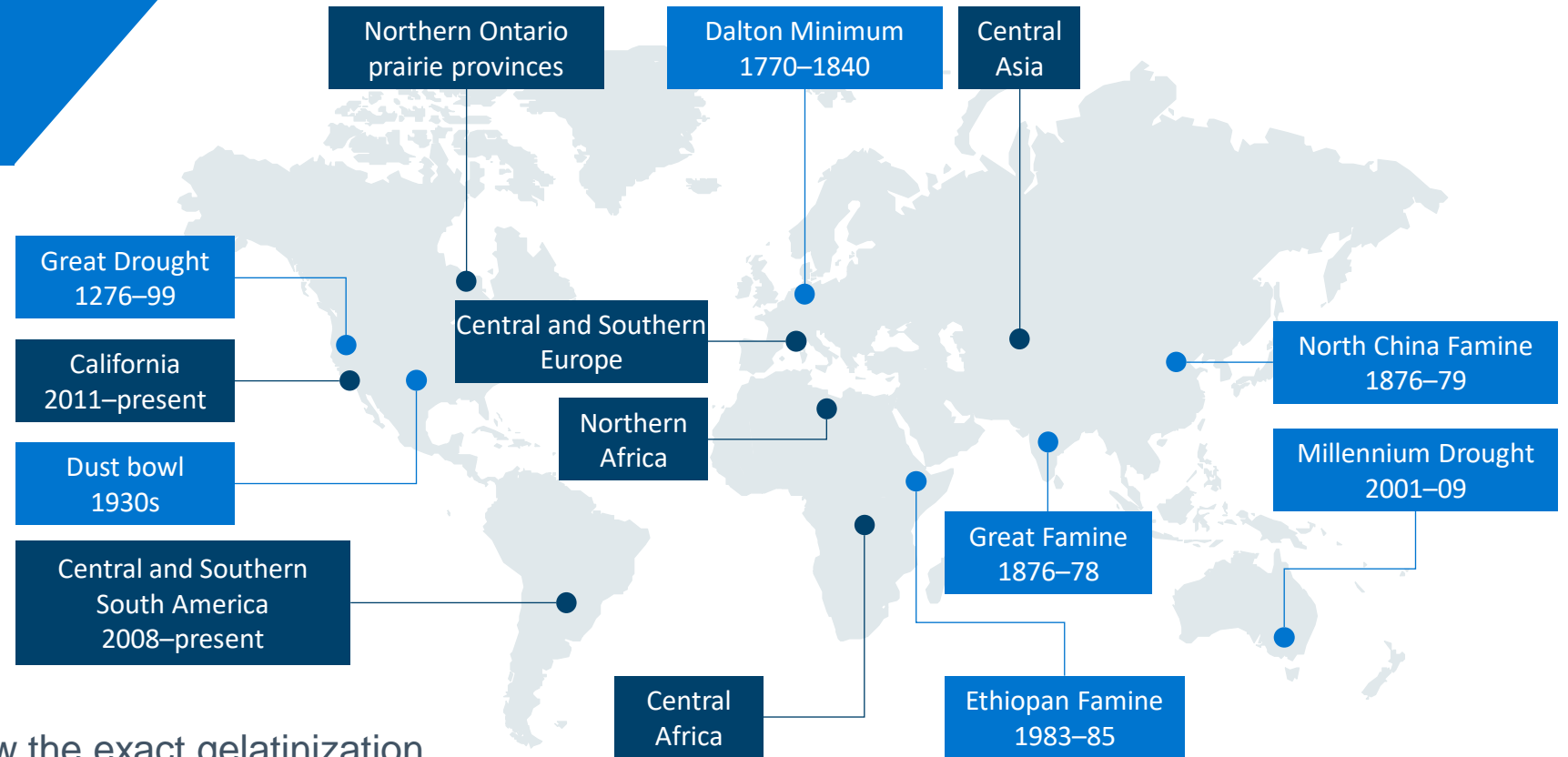


## DROUGHT

An extended period of rainless weather that causes a considerable water imbalance

### Locations of ongoing and historical droughts

● Ongoing\* ● Historical

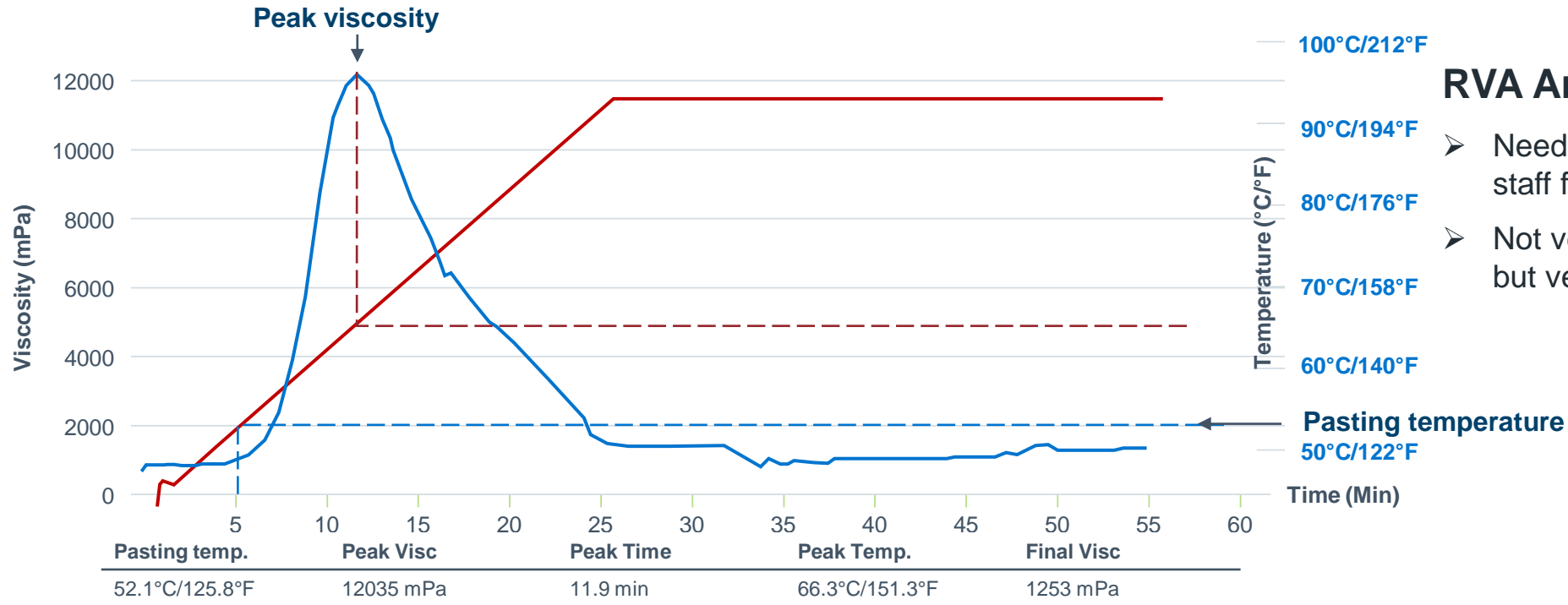


\*As of August 2022 according to the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS).

Source: <https://cdn.britannica.com/52/190352-050-F1D2DF24/Infographic-droughts-locations-drought-episodes-history.jpg>

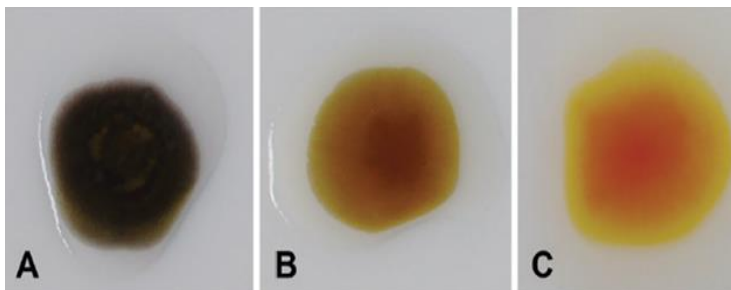
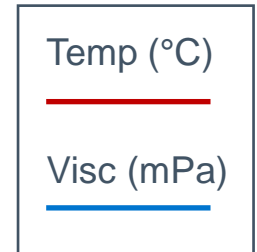
# ADDRESSING GRAIN VARIABILITY IN YOUR DISTILLERY

# WAYS TO EVALUATE GELATINIZATION



## RVA Analysis

- Needs an instrument and trained staff for laboratory analysis
- Not very fast to produce results, but very accurate/predictable.



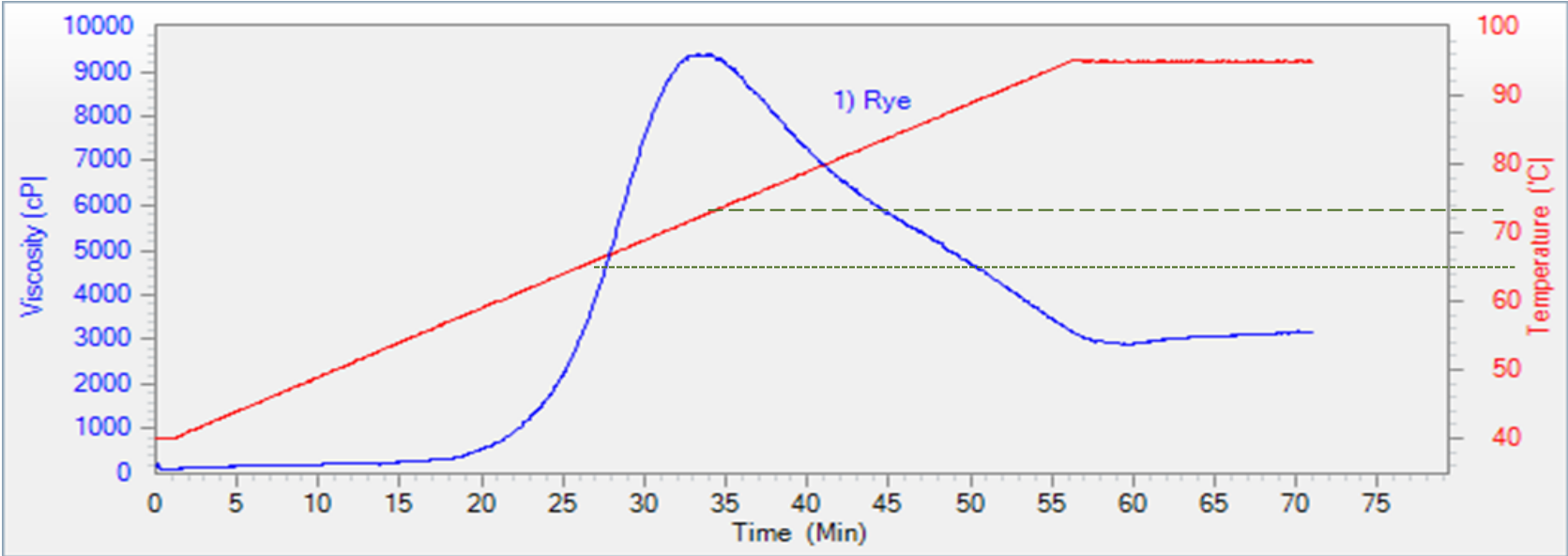
## Iodine Check

- Can be used in production.
- Not as accurate as RVA, but can be a simple go/no go test.
- Easy test to perform, but needs fresh iodine solution, stored away from light

A= black, positive for starch, B= brown, still signs of starch, C= OK, negative for starch

# CASE STUDY

# EXAMPLE OF HIGH GELATINIZATION TEMP



Peak temp  
162°F/72°C

←

←

Mash temp  
149°F/65°C

Temp (°C)

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Visc (mPa)

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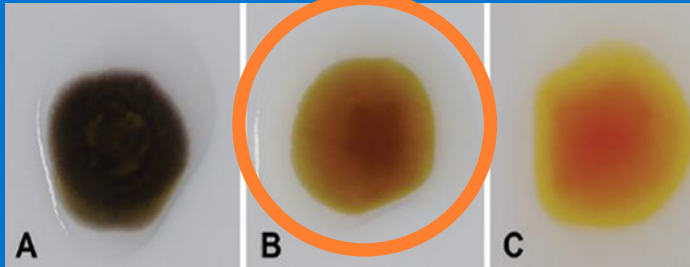
Test	Pasting Temp.	Pasting Time	Peak Viscosity (cP)	Peak Time (Min)	Peak Temp	Final Visc. (cP)
Rye	58 °C /136 °F	19 min	9407	33	72°C / 162°F	3183

Recipe calls 149°F/65°C conversion temperature.  
High gelatinization temperature. Need to adjust mashing.



# TEST 1: COOK TEMP AS IS

- 95% rye, 5% malt
- 4.9 pH
- Mash In
- 129° F/ 54 °C
- Cook (Gelatinize) 148°F/ 65°C
- LAMINEX® C2K for viscosity reduction
- DIAZYME® SSF for conversion



## RESULTS

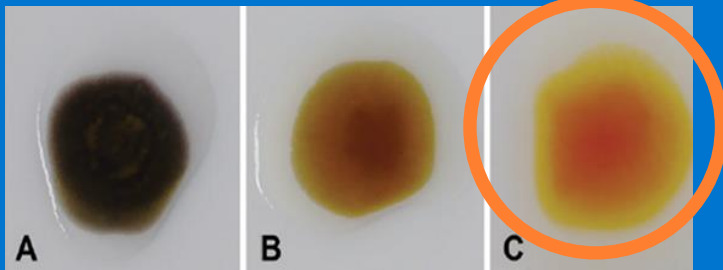
- Mash with malt only never fully gelatinized.
- Commercial enzymes still need 20-30 minutes to fully gelatinize.

1. Main Mashing 129°F/54°C, 30 min		2. Ramp to Conversion 148°F/65°C, 30 min Glucoamylase addition	3. Iodine check Iodine negative at 148°F/65°C				
AMYLEX®5T (kg/t)	AMYLEX®6T (kg/t)		0-5 min	5-10 min	10-20 min	20-30 min	30 min
Control malt only			black	dark brown	dark brown	dark brown	brown
Control malt only			black	dark brown	dark brown	dark brown	brown
Control malt only			black	dark brown	dark brown	dark brown	brown
Control malt only			black	dark brown	dark brown	dark brown	brown
Control malt only			black	dark brown	dark brown	dark brown	brown
Control malt only			black	dark brown	dark brown	brown	brown
0.25			black	OK?	OK	OK	OK
0.25			black	OK?	OK	OK	OK
0.25		black	OK?	OK	OK	OK	
0.25		black	brown	OK	OK	OK	
0.25		black	brown	OK	OK	OK	
0.25		black	brown	OK	OK	OK	
	0.25	black	dark brown	OK?	OK	OK	
	0.25	black	dark brown	OK?	OK	OK	
	0.25	black	dark brown	OK?	OK	OK	



# TEST 2: COOK TEMP BASED ON RVA RESULTS

- 95% rye, 5% malt
- 4.9 pH
- Mash In
- 129° F/ 54 °C
- Cook (Gelatinize) 158°F/ 70°C
- LAMINEX® C2K for Viscosity
- DIAZYME® SSF for conversion



## RESULTS

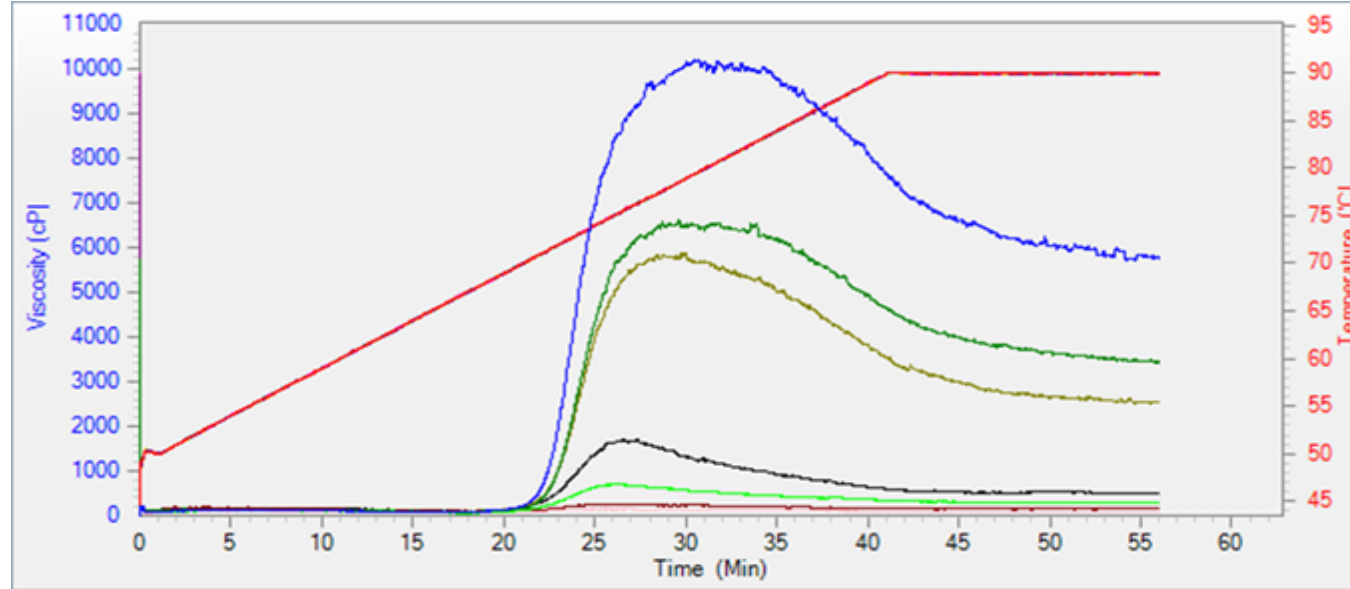
- Malt enzymes function, but it takes longer time to gelatinize due to low pH.
- Commercial enzymes fully gelatinized in 5-10 minutes.

1. Main Mashing 129°F/54°C, 30 min			3. Iodine check Iodine negative at 158°F/70°C				
AMYLEX®5T (kg/t)	AMYLEX®6T (kg/t)		0-5 min	5-10 min	10-20 min	20-30 min	30 min
Control malt only			black	brown/yellow	OK		
Control malt only			black	brown/yellow	OK		
Control malt only			black	brown/yellow	OK		
Control malt only			black	brown/yellow	OK		
Control malt only			black	brown/yellow	OK		
Control malt only			black	brown/yellow	OK??	OK	
0.25			black	OK			
0.25			brown OK?	OK			
0.25			OK				
0.25			OK				
0.25			OK				
0.25			OK				
	0.25		OK				
	0.25		OK				
	0.25		OK				

2. Ramp to Conversion  
158°F/70°C,  
30 min  
Glucoamylase  
addition

# EFFECT OF pH ON ENZYME ACTIVITY AND VISCOSITY

- Increased yield
- Faster processing
- Less energy
- Lower viscosity



Test	Addition	pH	Pasting Temperature (C°/F°)	Peak Viscosity (cP)	Peak Time Min	Peak Temp (C°/F°)	Final Visc. (cP)
1	Control, no enzyme	6.18	69.1 / 156.4	10192	30.7	79.6 / 175.3	5754
2	Alpha amylase	5.0	69.0 / 156.2	6624	29.6	78.5 / 173.3	3433
6*	Alpha amylase	5.1	69.0 / 156.2	5881	29.7	78.6 / 173.5	2541
7*	Alpha amylase	5.2	69.0 / 156.2	1696	27.3	76.3 / 169.3	511
3	Alpha amylase	5.3	69.0 / 156.2	700	25.9	74.9 / 166.8	283
4	Alpha amylase	5.6	err	269	25.7	74.6 / 166.3	171
5	Alpha amylase	5.9	err	197	25.7	74.6 / 166.3	89

Change of viscosity with pH change and constant dose of alpha amylase in ground corn.

# CONCLUSION

**Gelatinization takes place over a range of temperature. It is not a single point.**

**This range is highly variable due to factors discussed today, including crop variety, year, region, growing conditions, and drought.**

**Heat and drought are more frequent, and they increase gelatinization temperatures.**

**For efficient gelatinization, the cook temperature needs to be adjusted to the correct temperature.**

**If the cook temperature is too high, malt enzymes may be inactivated or denatured.**

# THANK YOU!

Please reach out to your local IFF or Gusmer Enterprises representative for more information.



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