

***gerstō** Runic:  Pronunciation: /'yer.stoː/

noun · feminine · ō-stem

Meanings

barley

Etymology

From virtual Proto-Indo-European *g^hersd-eh₂, from *g^hersd-. Cognate with Latin *hordeum* ('barley'), Ancient Greek κριθή (*krithē*) (krithē, 'barley'), Armenian գարի (gari, 'wheat'), Albanian drithë ('cereal, grain'). However, given the irregular sound correspondences (especially the Greek, which requires a root of the shape *g^hreyd^h-), probably of non-Indo-European substrate or Wanderwort origin. If indeed Indo-European in origin, the root would seem to be *g^hers- ('to be stiff') (compare Sanskrit हर्षति (*hárṣati*) (hárṣati, 'to bristle')) with some extension *-D-. For the semantics, compare the synonym *baraz ("barley"; originally "spiky leaves", 'awn'), apparently from *b^hers- ('sharp point, tip, top'). Contrast *hirsijō ('millet') (Old Norse hirsi, Old High German hirso).

Declension

Case	Singular	Plural
Nom.	gerstō	gerstōz
Acc.	gerstō	gerstōz
Gen.	gerstōz	gerstō
Dat.	gerstōi	gerstōmaz
Inst.	gerstō	gerstōmiz
Voc.	gerstō	gerstōz

Descendants

***gerstu** (Proto-West Germanic)

 ***gersta** (Old Dutch)

gerste (Middle Dutch)

gerst (Dutch)

gerst (Papiamentu)

***gerstu** (Proto-West Germanic)

 ***gersta** (Old Dutch)

gerste (Middle Dutch)

gerst (Dutch)

gars (Afrikaans)

írhási (Xhosa)

***gerstu** (Proto-West Germanic)

gorst, gors, *gurst (Old English)

gorst, gors, gorste, gost, grost (Middle English)

gorse (English)

goss, gorr (Yola)

***gerstu** (Proto-West Germanic)

 ***jerste** (Old Frisian)

Jäärste, Jüste (Saterland Frisian)

***gerstu** (Proto-West Germanic)

gersta (Old High German)

gerste (Middle High German)

Geerste (Alemannic German)

Gerste (German)

 גערשט (**gersht**) (Yiddish)

***gerstu** (Proto-West Germanic)

gersta (Old High German)

gerste (Middle High German)

Geaschtn (Bavarian)

ghéersta (Cimbrian)

gerst (Mòcheno)

***gerstu** (Proto-West Germanic)

gersta (Old High German)

gerste (Middle High German)

Jääsch, Gääsch (Central Franconian)

Geescht (Luxembourgish)

***gerstu** (Proto-West Germanic)

gersta (Old Saxon)

gerste (Middle Low German)

Garste, Garst (German Low German)

Joascht (Plautdietsch)

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