

Organic Hop Market Report

American Organic Hop Grower Association

December 2013



2013 Organic Hop Harvest Recap

The organic hop industry vies to meet brewer demand by increasing the volume of acreage as well as the quality of organic hops. While the growing conditions were less than ideal this year, total volume still increased by 16% (represented by growers of the AOHGA). A combination of new baby acreage, and a boost in yield from the maturity of hops from year 1 to year 2 were the reason for such a strong gain in production.

The growing season in the pacific northwest started out relatively warm, but temperatures dropped (*continued on Page 2*)

TOTAL POUNDS OF ORGANIC HOPS

The total pounds of organic hops produced by AOHGA growers in 2012 & 2013:

2012: 218,000 lbs.

2013: 253,000 lbs.

Acres Harvested by AOHGA Growers*		
Hop Variety	2012 Acreage	2013 Acreage
Ahtanum™	2	2
Cascade	60	61
Centennial	35	36
Chinook	20	20
Citra®	37	38
Fuggle	3	7
Golding	3	4
Hallertau	6	6
Liberty	1	1
Magnum	4	6
Nugget	< 1	5
Palisade®	8	10
Perle	0	2
Simcoe®	5	19
Sterling	15	21
Summit™	2	2
Willamette	0	< 1

*Includes AOHGA growers who responded to the survey.

Harvest Recap and News

2013 Harvest Recap(continued)

In mid May, resulting in slower growth. As temperatures began to rise again in June, the hops responded well, producing a crop that was high quality. Growers continue to look at demand in the off season and plan for upcoming organic expansion.

A Commitment to Organic Hop Production

In 2013 the AOHGA implemented a grant program that will provide valuable information to organic hop growers who are members on better growing practices.

Associate Member Ron Britt and Associates of Yakima, Washington is conducting a multi year study on the effectiveness of certain pest control

methods. The results of this study will provide insight into the best possible methods for reducing certain pests. The study began in 2013 with a focus on two spotted spider mites, and will continue in 2014 with the same focus. Because organic hops production is a relatively new venture, the AOHGA believes it is in the best interest of the industry to meet demand with the highest quality and yield possible.

Ron Britt and Associates is an agricultural consulting and research firm founded and developed by Ron Britt over 35 years ago. Ron based the company on new technology with an eye for innovation. As the first private consultant to fully implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices for tree fruit in the state of Washington, Ron has worked diligently to create pest control programs designed to encourage predator populations while reducing pesticide use.

If you are interested in becoming a grower member, please contact info@usorganichops.com

The American Organic Hop Grower Association works with USA Hops and BA for Better Picture of Total Organic Production

As of today, there is no central source to obtain organic hop production in aggregate within the United States, and even less clarity on international production.

The AOHGA is working with Ann George of Hop Growers of America To get a better idea on what is available to the brewer. Ann is not only involved with USA hops and the Washington Hop Commission, she also works with the International Hop Congress, which has the possibility of gaining better insight into international organic hop production.

As of December 2013, the USDA-NASS program does not separate organic from conventional production. There is currently no way to find out how much of any given variety of organic hops are produced domestically or internationally, but with the help of Ann and the USDA, that will hopefully be ending shortly. The AOHGA will also be working with the Brewers Association to contact every domestic hop grower we can find to participate in educating the public on availability.

These efforts will ensure that as craft continues to grow, and as organic brewers continue to diversify into new beers, there will be a stronger communication between grower and brewer. Brewers need to know that they can get the hops they want for new and developing brands, and the AOHGA will continue to grow awareness of available varieties.

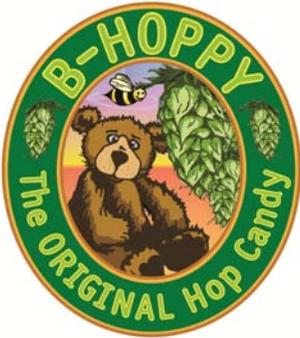


Membership Notes

Help us welcome our newest Grower member, Old 4th Hop Yard from Ontario, Canada! Check them out at [facebook.com/Old4thBrewingCompany](https://www.facebook.com/Old4thBrewingCompany)

Old4thBrewingCompany

Also, Help us welcome B-Hoppy The original hop candy as an associate member!



Contract Contract Contract

The greatest way to ensure communication is met between brewer and grower is to contract your hops in advance. Growers need to know what to put in the ground to cover demand, but they cannot guess what that demand will be. Organic hops are quite expensive to grow, so it follows that growers cannot risk planting a given volume unless they know those hops will be taken by brewers.

There is a great article in the November/December 2013 edition of The New Brewer on contracting

hops written by Dick Cantwell of Elysian Brewing Co. The article discusses the trends in hop usage as well as the prices paid in contract. Check it out if you have a chance!

Craft Brewers Conference 2014

The AOHGA will have a booth again at the 2014 CBC in Denver, Colorado. Stop by and say Hi!



AOHGA Grower Members



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Old 4th Hop Yard

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AOHGA Membership

Membership in the American Organic Hop Grower Association is open to anyone who would like to join. Our current membership levels are:

Grower Members: Certified organic hop growers can join as grower members. They have voting rights, and their annual fee is \$100 per certified acre.

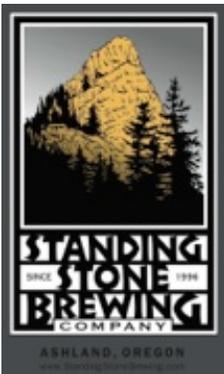
Associate Members: Associate memberships are open to anyone in the industry who supports the use of organic hops in organic beer, including growers. The annual fee for associate members is \$100 per year.

For more information on membership, please contact us at info@usorganichops.com.

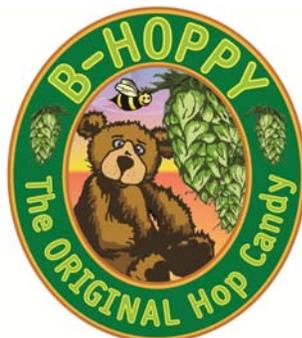
AOHGA Associate Members



Ron Britt
& Associates



Washington State University



Thank You to Our Members for Your Support!