

Organic Hop Market Report

American Organic Hop Grower Association

December 2015



2015 AOHGA Changes its Focus

As the craft beer movement continues to grow, the demand for hops continues to rise. The organic hop industry is not a whole lot different, and growers have continued to respond by adding new varieties and continuing their focus on increasing yield and quality.

In 2015, the AOHGA has moved away from its original focus of bringing awareness to the organic hop industry. In the future, the organization will focus primarily on research to improve growing practices that will result in higher yield and quality potential for our organic growers. For several years, the AOHGA has been funding small grants to research pest management and fertility through Associate Member organization Ron Britt and Associates. This year, we have expanded out research into multiple focuses on these areas, which will help our Grower Members out tremendously.

Varieties Grown by AOHGA Growers 2015*	
Hop Variety	Hop Variety
Ahtanum™	Idaho 7
Azacca®	Jarrylo™
Bravo	Liberty
Calypso	Magnum
Cascade	Nugget
Centennial	Palisade®
Chinook	Pekko™
Citra®	Perle
El Dorado®	Simcoe®
Equinox™	Sterling
Fuggle	Summit™
Golding	Willamette
Hallertau	

*Includes AOHGA growers who responded to the survey.

Harvest Recap and News

2015 Season Recap

2015 saw some challenges for hop growers in the Pacific Northwest. Due to higher than average temperatures in the cascade mountain range, the winter of 2014-2015 did not provide a very strong snowpack. The reservoirs started the season full, which helped to get growers through, but there were plenty of water troubles to be had, specifically in the Yakima Valley.

In addition to water shortages, there was also unseasonably hot weather. While some varieties flourished in this weather, others were negatively affected. In an effort to better inform our readers and members of the growing season, we interviewed our grower owners about this year.



What surprised you about growing organic this year?

RB-Not an organic vs commercial issue, but because of high temperatures and short water resources this season we adjusted our irrigation practices. The Plants received the same amount of water but the change in delivery significantly affected the plants.

NJ-Increased aphid pressure with higher dry matter numbers at harvest in the organics

LA-I don't think there were any surprises, things went about as expected this year

How did the weather impact your organic hops?

LA-We had hops trying to grow in January when we had a warm spell. Very dry winter and spring with warm temperatures leading to less vigorous hops and more mites.

NJ-Hot weather created fear and uncertainty for the grower, but everything seemed to fair out ok. Especially with the unusually late training dates

RB-Heat and short water pushed us to adjust our irrigation practices. The weather did not seem to affect pest or disease levels in our isolated location.

What is the greatest value the AOHGA brings to your organization?

NJ-The law change several years ago.

RB-Fresh ideas and techniques involving all aspects of hop growing.

LA-We are glad the group is doing what it does and the grower resources are very helpful for me.

How did organic production compare to your conventional production (if applicable)?

NJ-Organic out produced conventional across the board this year on my farm.

With the hops market growing so fast, do you see organic hops keeping pace with conventional hops?

NJ-Not at this point

RB-Yes

LA-We are a niche program growing for our own usage, so we do not follow that too closely

What challenges do you see in the future of growing organic hops?

NJ-Fertility and a consistent yield.

LA-Weeds are a huge problem. We have very little disease pressure, but mites continue to be a problem for us here.

RB-We have a unique niche and are fairly small. As such, market pressures don't really affect us.

Have your quality and yields improved over the past few years the more you grow hops organically?

LA-No, but I attribute it more to local climate and the varieties we are trying to grow that are not well suited for this growing area. We are focusing a lot on finding the best varieties to grow here.

RB-Up until this year they had.

DG-Yes, quality has been improving over the past several years in organic hops.

NJ-Quality may have suffered slightly due picking time, but that would be specific to 2015.

AOHGA Current Activities

The AOHGA is currently studying the effects of certain organic treatments on different pests in organic hops. The results of these treatments

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.

Craft Brewers Conference 2016

The AOHGA will no longer have a booth at the Craft Brewers Conference. It is the belief of our organization that we should focus our resources on improving organic growing practices.

Membership Notes

Please help us welcome Carr Creek Hops as an Associate Member!



AOHGA Grower Members



Big Head Hops

077074 11th Line

RR#1 Meaford, ON N4L 1W5



Microhops™

Derrick Davis
409 Veralene Way SW, Everett, WA 98203
206-351-6404
profitablebysdev@gmail.com

Jackson Hop

Jackson Hop

Nate Jackson
20130 Lantern St, Caldwell, ID
Idahohops@gmail.com

AOHGA Grower Members Continued



B.T. Loftus Ranches, Inc.

Patrick Smith
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509.452.3931
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Perrault Farms, Inc.

Jason Perrault
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jason@perraultfarms.com



Blue Ridge Hops

Rita Pelczar and John Wright
313 Laurel Branch Rd Marshall, NC 28753
301.602.0722
blueridgehops@aol.com



Roy Farms

Jim Boyd
401 Walters Rd, Moxee, WA 98936
509.452.3494
jim@royfarms.com



Carpenter Ranches, LLC

Brad Carpenter
400 Carpenter Road, Granger, WA 98932
509.854.1750
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Sierra Nevada Brewing Co.

Lau Ackerman
1075 E 20th St, Chico, CA 95928
530.893.3520
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The Oregon Hophouse

Patrick Leavy
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503.678.6840
hophouse@centurytel.net



Old 4th Hop Yard

Stephanie Jaworski & Ron Brennan
Williamstown, ON - KOC 2J0
1.613.361.9333
hops@old4th.ca

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.

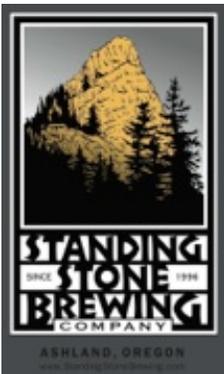
Associate Members: Associate memberships are open to anyone in the industry who supports the use of organic hops in organic beer, including growers. The annual fee for associate members is \$100 per year.

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

AOHGA Associate Members



Ron Britt
& Associates



Doug Rose



Thank You to Our Members for Your Support!