



**Yakima Chief Inc.**  
**2004 U.S. Hop Crop Report #3**  
**Week of September 5**

1. **Water & Weather** – The past week was reasonably in line with forecasts until the last few days which brought the onset of unsettled weather. It has grown cooler and rain clouds are flirting with the valley. Wind has increased but has been steady. While this is preferable to shifting gusty conditions which can mechanically damage the crop, it holds the potential to stress the crop now that irrigation is ending to allow equipment into the field.

Harvest progress made up no time during this interval. The forecast for the next week is not dire but neither is it encouraging. Pulses of unstable air masses are slated to arrive from the Pacific causing most of the next week to hold a significant threat of precipitation.

This is a mixed bag of news. Overcast and showers will take moisture stress off the crop but may delay maturity and harvesting operations.

2. **Pest Pressure** – Pest control efforts are complete to make sure that pre-harvest intervals are observed. A generalized browning of the crop, both foliage and cones, is becoming quite evident on about 50% of the crop still hanging. This is attributed to a physiological reaction to moisture stress, wind damage, shifting temperatures and windborne microbes taking advantage of weakened plants.

3. **Aroma Hop Crop** – The aroma crop harvest is just about complete.

VARIETY	Alpha Acid by ASBC UV Spectro				
	2004 <sup>(1)</sup>	2003	2002	2001	2000
Simcoe®	13.6	14.5	15.2	14.6	13.3
Palisade™	9.1	9.2	9.5	9.2	7.9
Northern Brewer	8.6	7.7	8.6	9.9	7.1
Centennial	8.8	7.1	8.2	9.2	9.3
Sterling	6.8	5.3	6.9	7.1	4.2
Tettnang	4.7	3.9	4.1	5.8	5.5
Cascade	6.3	5.7	6.5	7.6	5.8
Perle	6.7	5.9	7.4	8.0	6.0
Challenger	6.1				
Vanguard	5.3	4.9	5.3	6.3	6.1
Amarillo	9.3	8.1	8.4	9.7	8.7
Ahtanum	5.9	5.7	5.8	6.2	5.4
Willamette	4.9	4.6	4.7	5.5	4.9
Northwest Golding	4.0	3.9	4.1	5.2	4.2
Liberty	4.5	4.1	5.1	4.6	3.8
Fuggle	3.6	3.6	3.8	5.3	4.6
Hallertau	4.7	5.1	5.9	6.8	6.8
Spalter Select	3.2	2.5	3.5	4.4	2.1

(1) Final estimates

Few quality problems are evident in the aroma crop and H.S.I. data on the incoming bales have remained quite low. As reported last week, there has been local variation within the region with respect to yields. However, based upon overall reports it appears that Cascades are up uniformly, Willamettes marginally and most other varieties are average. This would add about 300,000 lbs to

the base prediction made in the first crop report of the season but that needs to be trimmed by perhaps 100,000 pounds to take into account loss of yield from downed fields in the first week of harvest.

4. **Bitter Hop Crop** - Deliveries of alpha and super-alpha hops are running about 20% behind normal for this time of year. Growers are reasonably pleased with yields (2,800-2,900 lbs/ac) but alphas have not risen to levels typical for this time of year. We see 15.8% over all CTZ's received when the expected level would be at 16.4%.

H.S.I. data is very low to date which suggests that the crop isn't at full maturity. However, the crop has to be picked in order to prevent deterioration. Current weather has slowed harvest, growers cannot spread out efforts and hope to harvest a quality crop later.

- a. **Oregon/Idaho** – No updates this past week.
- b. **Overall US Crop** – The increase of aroma crop has already been noted. The increased yield of alphas and supers, if maintained, would add yet another 1mm lbs which pushes crop prediction to 55.7 mm pounds total. Maintenance of the current alpha trend offsets the impact to total alpha intake though... total alpha received probably won't push past the 3.08 mm KgA mark.

It is unlikely that any further upward adjustment will take place. The crop is now past the point of benefit from management efforts and weather. It remains vulnerable to any deleterious weather which could take both yield and alpha intake back down. The most likely scenario will have alphas rise and yields back off in a compensating balance.

5. **Market Activity** – No activity reported this past week.

*Our next report is to be transmitted the evening of September 19, 2004*