



Yakima Chief Inc.
2004 U.S. Hop Crop Report #2
Week of August 29

1. **Water & Weather** – As predicted the weather was variable this week. Temperature dropped on Wednesday and Thursday with steady winds of 20 – 25 mph (32 - 40 km/h). We were fortunate to avoid precipitation during this time and no yards were lost. The depression of temperature was short-lived; by Friday, seasonal norms again prevailed.

The next week is looking very good with average daily highs and nightly lows 1 – 2° C higher than average. There is no precipitation expected in the interval. This should permit harvest work to make up some of the time lost last week.

Reservoir levels are equal to last week locally and slightly improved in the Snake River drainage. While little water is now required for irrigation purposes, the maintenance or improvement of storage levels in the greater Columbia/Snake watershed over the next several months would mitigate competition between power generators, fisheries managers and agricultural producers.

There have been no official updates to El Niño status nor the seasonal drought assessment.

2. **Pest Pressure** –Mite pressure returned to a few fields with the return of warmer weather. With higher nightly temperatures than normal this may persist a little longer. Some red hops are being seen, overall control has been satisfactory to this point. No other problems reported.
3. **Aroma Hop Crop** – The aroma crop harvest is now 75 - 80% complete. Few of the alpha numbers tabulated below are final for the season; we still have some bales to receive for most of the varieties.

VARIETY	Alpha Acid by ASBC UV Spectro				
	2004 ⁽¹⁾	2003	2002	2001	2000
Northern Brewer	8.6	7.7	8.6	9.9	7.1
Centennial	8.4	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	6.5	5.7	6.5	7.6	5.8
Perle	6.7	5.9	7.4	8.0	6.0
Vanguard	4.5	4.9	5.3	6.3	6.1
Willamette	4.8	4.6	4.7	5.5	4.9
Northwest Golding	4.0	3.9	4.1	5.2	4.2
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) Current estimates

The overall alpha acid pattern is more reminiscent of the 2002 crop than last year's. This was not expected on the basis of aggregate climate data for May through August time period in a review of the prior four years. The accumulation of growing degree days this year was far more similar to 2003 data than 2002. Digging deeper, a regression of daily data for the years showed more similarity for daily high temperatures (July and August) between 2004 and 2002. The overall correlation is slight but does exist.

In the lower valley the yield performance of the aroma crop is average, largely due to Willamette. Most growers report Cascade doing equal to or slightly better than average. The rest of the group are even or slightly lower than average.

Reports out of Moxee suggest better aroma yields (5-10%) across all varieties. After all yards are in we should be able to provide a more detailed report on yield performance against the average. H.S.I. data on received aromas are almost uniformly superb – they are being delivered in good condition.

4. **Bitter Hop Crop** - Deliveries of a few alpha and super-alpha hops have begun. With only a token of the crop received, alphas are running around 15% for CTZ's with yields in the 2,500 – 2,750 lbs/acre range. Considering the date, this is hardly surprising. A significant amount of harvest activity is being devoted to the supers around the valley right at the moment. This gives rise to the expectation that although pounds delivered may equal the average, alpha acid may be lighter than expected in 2004. The overall alpha reduction, if it happens, depends largely upon how much of the crop is harvested in the next 7 days. That date should put us at or slightly past the mid-point of deliveries.

In discussing the aroma crop we noted a similarity in climate between the 2002 and 2004 crop. Readers may remember 2002 as a superior crop. We believe that it is too early to generalize this correlation to the current alpha crop.

- a. **Oregon/Idaho** – No updates this past week.
 - b. **Overall US Crop** – With less than 20% of the crop delivered there will be no change to our original estimate.
5. **Market Activity** – No grower sales reported this past week.

Our next report is to be transmitted the evening of September 12, 2004