Hop Production to Enhance Economic Opportunities for Ohio Farmers and Brewers 2016

Brad Bergefurd, Extension Educator, Scioto County and Piketon Research & Extension Center, Ohio State University
Dr. Mary Margaret Gardiner, Associate Professor and Extension State Specialist, Department of Entomology, Ohio State University
Dr. Sally A. Miller, Professor and Extension State Specialist, Department of Plant Pathology, Ohio State University

Objective
To screen hop cultivars for suitability, production performance and quality attributes under Ohio growing conditions.

Background
This study was conducted at the Ohio State University (OSU) Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC), Horticulture Research Unit2 Wooster, Ohio (lat. 40° 47’ N; long. 81° 55’ W), elevation 1020 feet. The experimental soil is designated as a Doles Wooster Silt-Loam.

Methods
Experimental design is Randomized Complete Block (RCB) with 4 replications of each treatment. Rhizomes were hand planted into 10 inch tall raised beds covered with black landscape fabric for weed and soil erosion control. Plants are spaced 3 feet apart in row and beds are spaced 12 foot on center. Drip irrigation is installed on high tinsel wire above the landscape fabric. 159 pounds of P2O5, 140 pounds of K2O and 2477 pounds of CaCO3 per acre was applied according to soil test results and incorporated before forming beds and applying landscape fabric. A high trellis training system (17 ft. tall) was installed and assembled after formation of the raised beds.

Insect control: Collected leaf samples were inspected weekly for the presence of two-spotted spider mite, hop aphid and the potato leaf hopper. Chemical control was used when the thresholds had been reached for each insect type.

Disease control: Plant samples were analyzed by the Plant Pathology lab, OARDC to evaluate for disease as needed throughout the growing season. Fungicide applications were made on a 10 day schedule.

Irrigation: Drip irrigation was applied as needed throughout the growing season.

Fertilization: 125 lb/acre of Nitrogen fertilizer applications were made via fertigation through the drip irrigation system, over a six week period 4/15/16-6/10/16. Nitrogen source used was 28%.

Yield data
Hop cones were hand harvested as they reached physiological maturity according to chemical analysis results and fresh weight data was collected. Hop cones were then dried to 8% moisture.
using a hop drying Oast (dryer), weighed, and air tight packaged with a vacuum sealer and immediately placed into a freezer at -20 degrees F.

Table 1: Hop Yields Wooster, Ohio 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Wet lbs. per Plant</th>
<th>Dry lbs. per Plant</th>
<th>Wet lbs. per Acre</th>
<th>Dry lbs. per Acre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Columbus</td>
<td>3.3171 A</td>
<td>0.94218 A</td>
<td>4013.7 A</td>
<td>1140.04 A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cascade</td>
<td>2.024 B</td>
<td>0.56077 B</td>
<td>2449 B</td>
<td>678.53 B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nugget</td>
<td>1.7069 B</td>
<td>0.51192 B</td>
<td>2065.4 B</td>
<td>619.43 B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sterling</td>
<td>1.1289 C</td>
<td>0.30396 C</td>
<td>1365.9 C</td>
<td>367.8 C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centennial</td>
<td>0.8597 CD</td>
<td>0.23629 CD</td>
<td>1040.2 CD</td>
<td>285.91 CD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willamette</td>
<td>0.4926 D</td>
<td>0.13309 D</td>
<td>596.1 D</td>
<td>161.04 D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSD</td>
<td>0.4535</td>
<td>0.1237</td>
<td>548.78</td>
<td>149.69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Treatments with same letter are not significantly different.
* All results based on 1210 plants per acre

Summary

Overall plant and hop cone quality was good. Wet pounds per acre ranged from a high of 4013 (Cv. Columbus) to a low of 596 (Cv. Willamette). Wet pounds per plant ranged from a high of 3.31 pounds (Cv. Columbus) to a low of .49 pound (Cv. Willamette). Wet hop market prices average $25 per pound with gross return potential from Ohio hops in access of $70,000 per acre. Acreage estimates indicate 80 mature Ohio hop acres harvested in 2015.


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For more information, contact:
Brad Bergefurd
OSU South Centers
1864 Shyville Road
Piketon, Ohio 45661
bergefurd.1@osu.edu