

# Hop report - Saaz fine aroma hops

Crop 2007 – January / April 2007 (Saaz region)

## Weather condition – January / March 2007

Average temperature (°C)	2007	2006	30 years average
January	5,7	-4,9	-2,0
February	4,5	-1,8	-0,2
March	6,4	3,6	3,6
AVERAGE	-3,1	2,5	1,4

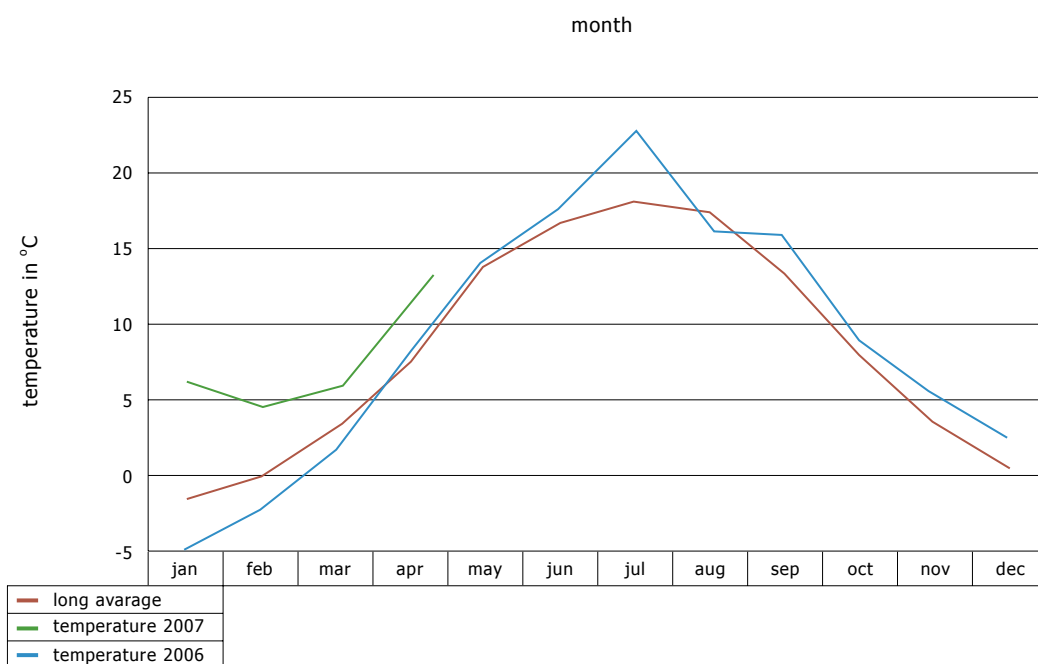
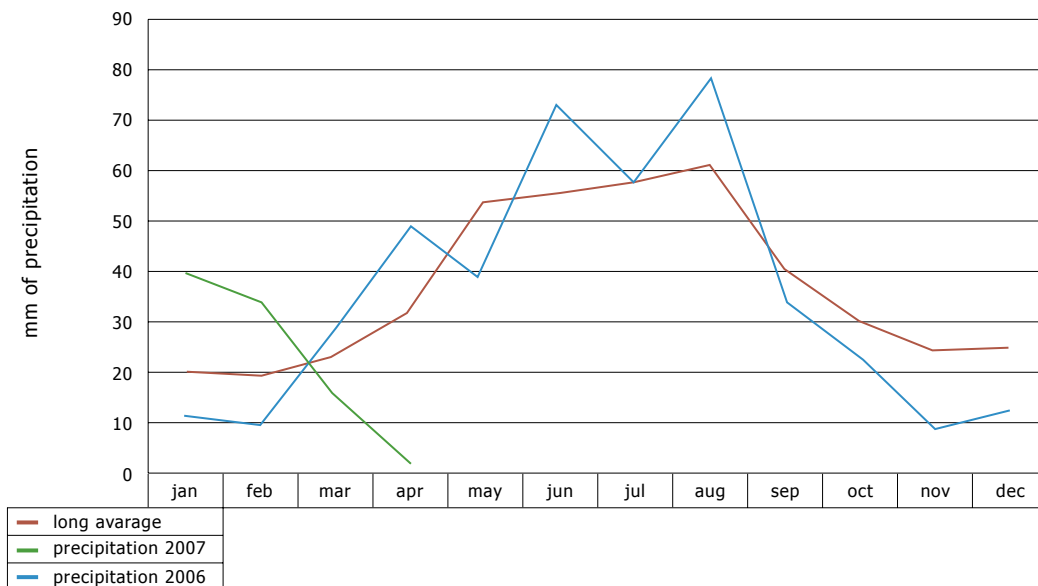
Total precipitation (mm)	2007	2006	30 years average
January	40,0	12,2	20,0
February	32,6	10,2	19,0
March	16,8	28,8	23,0
TOTAL	89,4	51,2	62,0

During the first two months of 2007 the precipitations were over the long-term average in the Saaz region. March precipitations reached 73% of the 30-years average. It is possible to say, that the first quarter of 2007 was favourable period what regards rainfalls. However, the development of the temperature is more important factor. During the whole trimester the temperatures abnormally over the average were recorded. In fact it concerned all three months. Even in January the maximum temperatures increased to 14,8 °C and in twelve days they overdrew 10 °C. The maximum temperature recorded in February was “only” 11,7 °C and in just three days the temperature increased to more than 10 °C. The maximum in March was 15,9 °C and practically half of all days showed the values of over 10 °C.

## Weather condition – April 2007

Temperature & precipitation in April	2007	2006	30 years average
Average temperature (°C)	12,8	8,9	8,5
Precipitation (mm)	2,1	48,8	32,0
Total precipitation (mm) JAN-APR	91,5	100,0	94,0
Max. temperature (°C)	26,6 (27.4.)	23,7(25.4.)	
Min. temperature (°C)	-0,1 (21.4.)	-4,5(7.4.)	
Max. precipitation (mm)	1,3	11,4	
Number of dry days	28	16	

According to the submitted data it is evident, that the development of climatic conditions in April was catastrophic. Practically zero value of precipitations and expressively high temperatures, corresponding to the summer levels, influenced negatively the moisture conditions of the soil.



## Growth report

As per our estimation, the abnormally high temperatures within the first trimester and April have speeded up the spring works by almost 14 days, in general. What regards spring works on hop gardens, we are of the opinion that they are about one week in advance, thanks to weather conditions. The pruning of the hops was finished properly and in time, in spite of the problems with the hardening of the soil. On majority of the gardens the leading hop strings have been inserted until the end of April. At the moment the farmers, which produce the hybrid varieties of hops (Slidek, Premiant, Agnus) attend intensively to the training of vines. The training of Saaz semi-early red-bine hops should start on the beginning of May.

What regards the occurrence of the diseases and insect hop pests it was necessary to provide the protection measures against alfalfa snout weevil (*Otiorrhynchus sulcatus* F.) and flea beetle (*Psylliodes attenuata* Koch). At the same time it is necessary to follow up the occurrence of rosy rustic moth (*Hydroecia micacea* Esp.) and hop bug (*Lygocoris Spinolay Meyer-Duer*). View to abnormally high temperatures the first winged hop aphids (*Phorodon humuli* Schrank) were ascertained on hop gardens. High temperature and dry weather create good conditions for red spider mite (*Tetranychus urticae* Koch). High attention is therefore inevitable. On the other side, current weather conditions are not favourable to the propagation of downy mildew of hops (*Pseudoperonospora humuli* Miy et Takah.).

Saaz, May 3, 2007

Jaroslav Hájek, Irena Nováková