

Hop report - Saaz fine aroma hops

Crop 2007 – August 2007 (Saaz region)

Weather condition – August 2007

Temperature & precipitation in August	2007	2006	30 years average
Average temperature (°C)	18,9	16,7	17,4
Total precipitation in August (mm)	102,2	76,0	62,0
Max. temperature (°C)	31,8 (7.8.)	27,7 (19.8.)	
Min. temperature (°C)	7,8 (2.8.)	6,3 (24.8.)	
Highest precipitation in one day (mm)	26,2 (23.8.)	12,8 (6.8.)	
Total precipitation Jan - August (mm)	389,7	346,9	225,0
Number of dry days	19	13	

August 2007 belongs among the months with the highest precipitations level ever recorded within the period of at least 40 years, when the long-term average of precipitations has been monitored. The rains came around 8th of August, and persisted, with variable intensity, up to the beginning of the harvest. On some localities the rainfalls reached 80 mm (08.08.2007 in Sedčice near Žatec/Saaz). High precipitations not only did not benefit the growth of hops, but also deteriorated its quality and complicated the hop-picking process.

Growth report

The health state of hop gardens did not improve substantially in comparison with July. Part of the gardens, especially of older ones, did not reach the height of constructions and majority of the plantations has shown also weaker growth and the plants habitus, compared to the average. Bad state of the hop gardens was caused again by very warm weather in 2007; and also the hail-storms of previous year, which damaged some of the gardens, have left serious consequences. The results of analysis of alpha acids contents show that the level of bitter substances is also below long-term average in case of Saaz Semi-early Red-bine hops. Wide differences in yield per hectare are typical for current crop, as well as the differences in contents of alpha acids, not only among different farmers, but also among the gardens of the same producer. Based on the first results of the harvest, we estimate that the drop in production will reach approx. 20% in average, whereas the fall of the yields of Saaz Semi-early Red-bine hops variety will be even more expressive. The first hop-bines have been pulled down already on 12th August, 2007. Majority of producers nevertheless has begun to pick the hops between 17th and 20th August 2007. According to the last estimations most of the producers will finish the harvest until the end of August. Furthermore the harvest of other varieties (Premiant, Bor, Agnus, Slidek) will continue beyond that date.

Hop phytosanitary information

The complications concerning keeping of good health state of hops continued also in August - especially problems with elimination of red spider mite (*Tetranychus urticae* Koch), which was enjoying very good conditions for reproduction until the end of the month. The protection not only against this pest, but also against hop aphid (*Phorodon humuli* Schrank), downy mildew of hops (*Pseudoperonospora humuli* Miy et Takah.) and powdery mildew (*Sphaeroteca humuli* (DC) Burr) was difficult due to strong rains and storms. Owing to these conditions some gardens were damaged and we evaluate the health state of hops in this year as rather substandard one.

Other information

The Žatec (Saaz) Branch of Central Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture (ÚKZÚZ) has specified the data regarding harvested areas of hops Crop 2007.

The area of Hop gardens in the Czech Republic (Estimation made out up to 24th August 2007)

Variety/region	Saaz (ha)	Auscha (ha)	Terschitz (ha)	Czech Republic (ha)
Saaz	3 642	632	566	4 840
Sládek	157	1	57	215
Premiant	134	41	74	249
Agnus	51	1,35%	2,10%	51
Bor	10			10
Others	12	7	5	24
Total	4 006	681	702	5 389

Gallery



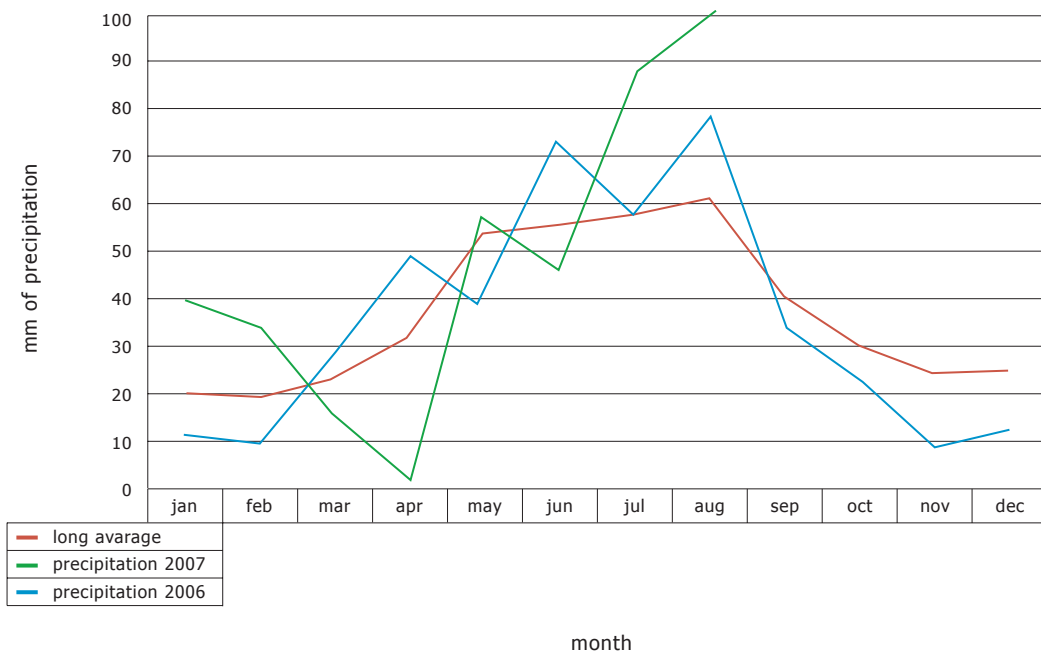
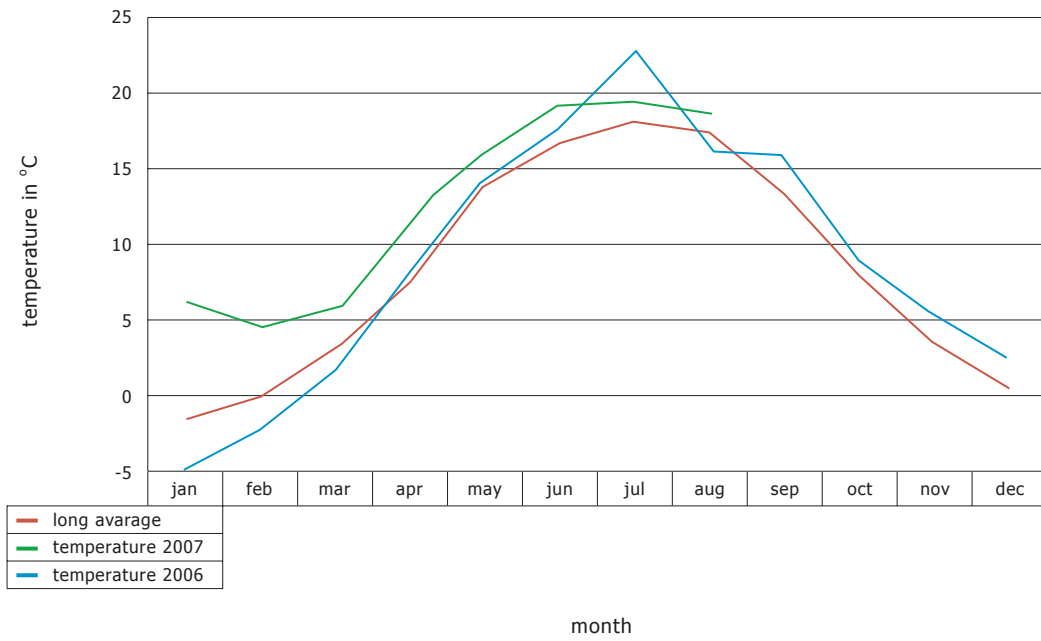
Hop harvest influenced by heavy rains



Hop-picking on LCCH-6 machine



Delivery of hops from growers to storage



Saaz, 2nd September, 2007

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