

Hop report - Saaz fine aroma hops

Crop 2009 – January / April 2009 (Saaz region)

Weather condition – January / March 2009

Average temperature (°C)	2009	2008	30 years average	Diff.
January	-3,4	2,0	-2,0	-5,4
February	0,5	3,4	-0,2	-2,9
March	5,2	4,2	3,6	+1,0
Summary 1st Trimester	2,3	9,6	1,4	-7,3

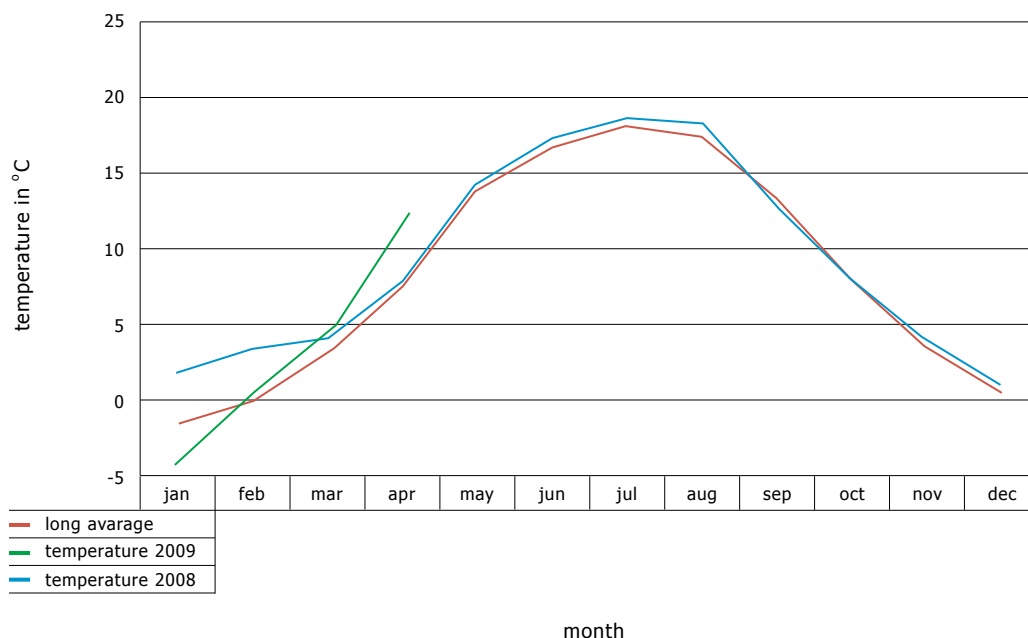
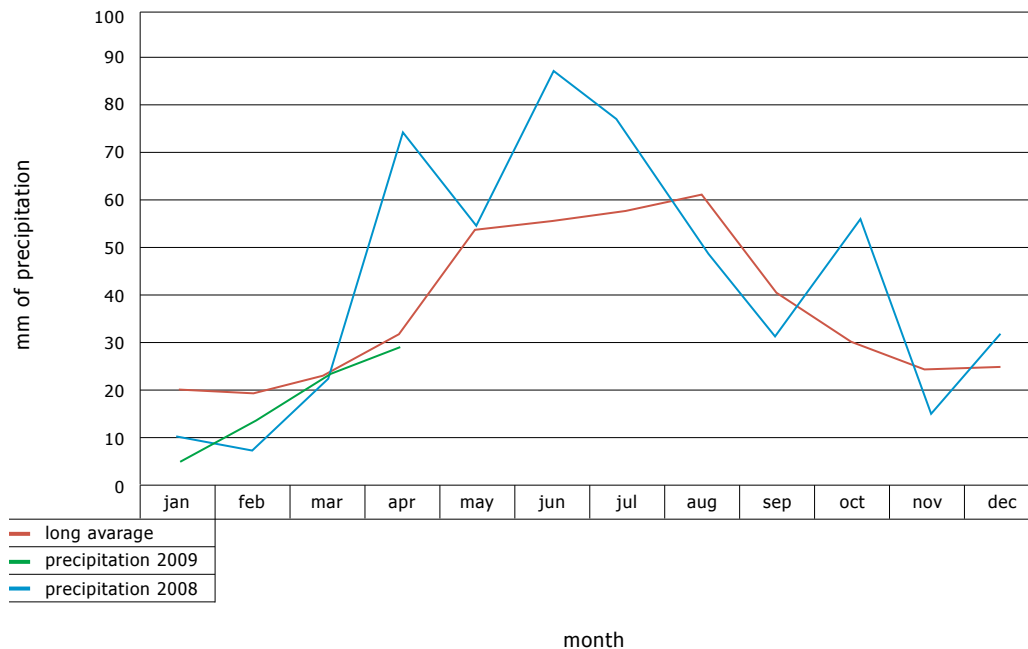
Total precipitation (mm)	2009	2008	30 years average	Diff.
January	6,6	10,8	20,0	-4,2
February	13,4	7,2	19,0	+6,2
March	23,0	22,8	23,0	+2,2
Summary 1st Trimester	45,0	40,8	62,0	-4,2

The level of precipitations during first two months of 2009 was deeply below long-term average (1961-1990). Precipitations in January 2009 reached only 33% and in February 70,5% of long-term average. On the other hand March 2009 was slightly richer by precipitations than the same month of previous year and long term average. However, total rainfalls in the first trimester correspond to 72,6% of long term average only. The temperatures of the first three months were influenced by relatively cold January, when the average slipped below long term average and deeply below the figures of January 2008. The temperatures in February were on the level of long term average and only March was expressively warmer.

Weather condition – April 2009

Temperature & precipitation in April	2009	2008	30 years average
Average temperature (°C)	12,2	8,8	8,5
Precipitation (mm)	30,0	74,8	32,0
Total precipitation (mm) JAN-APR	75,0	115,6	94,0
Max. temperature (°C)	24,8 (27.4.)	23,1 (28.4.)	
Min. temperature (°C)	-3,2 (1.4.)	-1,6 (17.4.)	
Max. precipitation (mm)	15,4	11,6	
Number of dry days	23	12	

April temperatures follow the March development. The temperatures have been exceeding the average practically since the first day. With a certain exaggeration we can say, that winter turned to summer without usual interval of springtime. We consider this development very negative as it caused fast grow of the vegetation. Although the precipitations were normal in Zatec (Saaz) in April, great contrasts have been recorded in the Saaz region as a whole, as well as in other production regions (Auscha, Terschitz) – in some localities the precipitations reached just few millimetres. Last year we appreciated the April weather as very favourable for growth of hops as well as other crops, this year we are at a loss as far as the weather is concerned.



Spring works and growth report

The development of climatic conditions within the first trimester and April 2009 was not helpful to the growth of vegetation, according to our opinion. Cumulative deficit of the precipitations on one side and record breaking temperatures on the other side, especially in April, have caused the acceleration of spring works on hop gardens. We estimate that compared to previous years the growth is speeded by 10 to 14 days up. The pruning of hops has been carried out continuously thanks to favourable conditions for this operation (low number of rainy days) and the farmers could adjust the work flow according to their needs. In majority of the hop gardens the leading hop wires have been strung up and fastened until the end of April. The advance of the vegetation influenced especially the beginning of the training of hops, which started already within the last decade of April. First the plantations of hybrid varieties have been trained, but view to growth of hops it was necessary to start to train also the Saaz semi-early red-bine hops in many gardens.



Hop training already in April

Not even in this year the beginning of flyover of aphides *migrantes alatae* from the primary host plants of *Prunus* gen. was recorded up to now. View to high temperatures nevertheless the first winged aphides can be expected on hops already by the end of the first decade of May. The occurrence of red spider mite (*Tetranychus urticae* Koch.) has not been ascertained up to now, although this pest can be expected earlier than usually, view to the progress of weather and vegetation. As far as downy mildew of hops (*Pseudoperonospora humuli* Myi et Takah.) is concerned, it is recommended to treat the gardens of hybrid varieties and virus free varieties of hops by fungicide Alliete 80 WP, always when the spiky sprouts are discovered.

Saaz, May 5, 2009

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