

Hops Variety Evaluation

Established: May 2018

Objectives: To evaluate varieties of hops for production on the Prairies

Collaborators: PCDF

Background

Production of hops is of interest in Manitoba. This is especially true as interest in Winnipeg and other cities surrounding locally sourced grains and hops for their craft brews continues to grow. Hops provide alternatives for smaller acreage owners. Different varieties possess different fragrances and qualities that affect the beers and other beverages produced from them. Equipment for planting and harvesting are available. An August 2018 article in the [Manitoba Cooperator](#) describes how hops growers received funding through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) for harvesting equipment.

A mature hops plant will quickly grow up to 20 feet in length, and an important working to get them properly strung up can provide for very busy work in the first part of the growing season. Once harvested, they are pressed into pellets, which are the preferred form for brewers. [Some growers](#) are looking at providing this service for other growers and [others](#) have devised their own means of producing pellets. The size of the operation will determine the best method for individual growers.

Infrastructure came into place toward the end of the season for the hops to grow upward in their characteristic manner. The summer of 2020 represented the first year that PCDF has harvested hops from these now well-established vines. The hops were not tested for flavour compounds at a lab, but plans have been made to test the material in 2021.

Results

The average yield for hops varieties are shown in Figure 1. Wet weights are for freshly harvested material, and dry weights are after the harvest material was left on air. The large differences in yield are due to differences in plant performance and wind damage. PCDF will continue the evaluation in 2021.

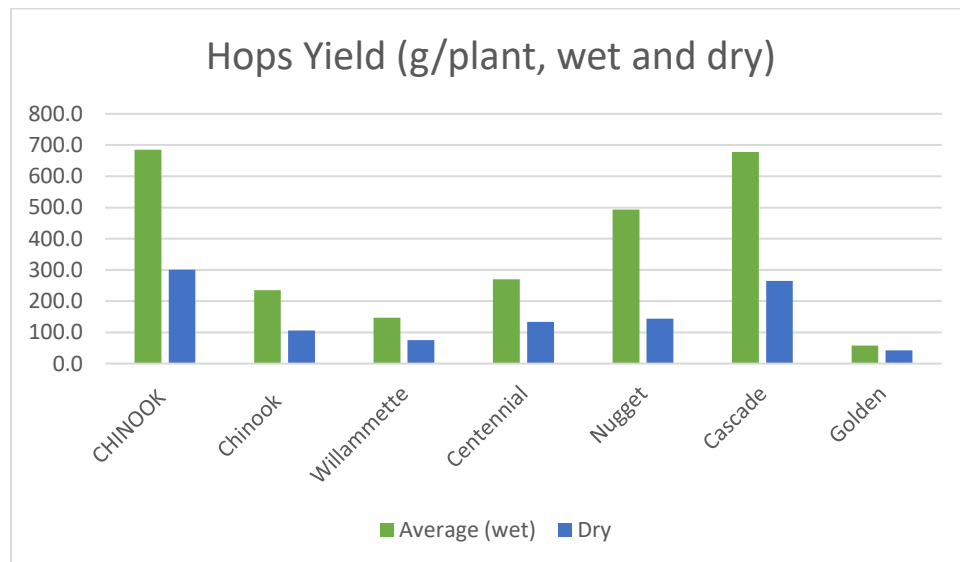


Figure 1: Yield for hops (g/plant, wet and dry) by variety

Materials and methods

Entries: 6 varieties in 3 repetitions
Varieties: See Table 1

Table 1: Hops Varieties at Roblin

Chinook	Willamette
Centennial	Nugget
Golden	Cascade

Agronomic info

Soil Type: Erickson Loam Clay
Landscape: Rolling with trees to the east
Planted: Jun 2018
Added Fertility: Composted sheep manure (2018, at planting)
100-20-10-15 lb/ac N-P-K-S added May 5, 2020