US HOP USE and HARVEST

December 29, 2020 | By Brian Hatheway | Art by Alicia Fitzmaurice

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THE 4 Cs
These 4 hops are considered the 4 most important hops in American Craft Beer history. They have all had their own unique impact on the industry.

CASCADE	CENTENNIAL	COLUMBUS	CITRA®
First Hop grown from the USDA ARS	Bred from at least 4 different hop varieties	Dual purpose hop, extremely versatile	Most used hop in modern brewing
Released for use in 1972	First released in 1990	Released in the 1990s	Released in 2007
Most used hop in the history of US craft beer. Coors was one of its earliest adopter but Anchor released the first beer, Liberty Ale, using all Cascade	Often called "Super Cascade," Centennial helped pave the way for the first IPA craze of the 90s and early 2000s.	Also known as Tomahawk®, Zeus or CTZ (acronym of all three names) because multiple growers tried to patent this hop at the same time.	Very bright, unique citrus aromas. Citra® has overtaken hop fields and is now the most grown US hop.
Try it in: Sierra Nevada Pale Ale	Try it in: Bell's Two Hearted Ale	Try it in: Fat Head's Head Hunter IPA	Try it in: Any & every NEIPA

HARVEST BY STATE IN 2019

Hops can be grown in any state in the US. Any homebrewer that grows their own hops will tell you that within 5 minutes of meeting them. But in the US, hops grow best in the Pacific Northwest, where nearly all of the domestic commercial hop crop is produced. Before prohibition New York was actually the largest producer of hops in the US meaning the PNW hasn't always been the epicenter of lupulin in the US. Fast forward to 2019 and Washington, Idaho, and Oregon accounted for 112 million lbs of hops harvested, a record high for the region and over 97% of the total hops grown for commercial use in America. Worth over \$600 million, the US hops farming industry employed over 7,000 workers in 2020.

Washington	ldaho	Oregon
Majority of hops in America are grown in Washington's	Recently surpassed Oregon as second largest grower	First commercial hops planted in 1867

Most grown hop - Citra®

Most grown hop - CTZ

Most grown hop - **Nugget**

40,000 acres harvested in 2019

In early 1900s, grew most hops in the world

HARVEST PROCESS

Grown on vines, 20-30 feet tall \rightarrow Bines are cut from their root systems below and the tressels above \rightarrow Hop bines are stripped of hops and leaves, the hops are separated \rightarrow Hop cones are then dried in large drying rooms \rightarrow Hops are then cooled and compressed into 200 lb bales \rightarrow The bales are then either sold as whole cone hops or turned into pellets or extract

MOST GROWN VARIETIES

2000	2016	2019
1. CTZ	1. Cascade	1. Citra®
2. Willamette	2. Centennial	2. CTZ
3. Nugget	3. CTZ	3. Mosaic®
4. Cascade	4. Citra®	4. Simcoe®
5. Galena	5. Simcoe®	5. Cascade