



**OREGON  
DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE**



## **INTRODUCING... OREGON HOPS**

Oregon is among the top three hop producing states in the nation, by the number of acres planted in hops. Most Oregon hops are grown in the Willamette Valley which is known for its mild climate, rich soil, and abundant rainfall. This special region is ideal for producing high-quality aroma-type hops that are favored by craft brewers across the country and around the world.

### **HOP VARIETIES IN OREGON'S CLIMATE**

Thirty varieties of hops are readily grown in Oregon, especially in the Willamette Valley. These varieties cover the spectrum of aromas and flavors, allowing brewers the hops needed to craft all beer styles. In response to the growth of craft beer, much of Oregon's hop production is devoted to aroma hops. Hop growers work closely with public plant breeding programs to develop hops that meet brewer and consumer preferences.

Several hundred hop varieties exist, with new varieties being developed each year. Two examples of popular hop from Oregon include Cascade and Citra™. The Cascade variety was developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture at Oregon State University and

released in 1972. With its distinctive floral and grapefruit-like character, it remains one of the most popular hops in the US. Citra™ was developed in response to the demand for more hop-forward beers and released in 2007 by the Hop Breeding Company. As the name suggests, Citra is known for its citrus and tropical fruit notes and has become one of the most recognized hop varieties.

More than ten flavor and aroma categories are commonly used to describe unique traits of hop varieties. These aromas span fruity, floral, earthy, citrus, spicy, and more. Different varieties of hops are used to bring out distinctive aromas for specific beer styles.



With such stunning varieties of hops, it is no wonder Oregon continues, year-after-year, to be a top destination for beer lovers and breweries. Oregon hops are also sought for hopped cider, hop water and kombucha.

## HOP FAMILY FARMS IMPLEMENT BEST PRACTICES

Most Oregon hop growers are third or fourth-generation farmers, with each generation passing its passion and expertise to the next. Oregon hop growers follow best farming practices, emphasizing sustainability for the continuation of their farms. In an effort to uphold greater environmentally conscious practices, for growers and consumers alike, many third-party organizations have been established to certify hops growers.

Many Oregon hop growers have taken the additional step to be certified by third-party organizations to demonstrate their commitment to sustainable and environmentally conscious practices on their farms. Brewers can select hops that carry certifications matching their own practices to carry these certifications forward to the consumer.

## CERTIFICATIONS FOR HOPS

**SAI PLATFORM:** Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) Platform helps companies achieve sustainable production and sourcing of agricultural raw materials. For hops growers, the SAI Platform allows for a trusted certification to show buyers that farms are using sustainable practices to support the food system.

**CERTIFIED ORGANIC:** As consumers demand more transparent and healthy foods, the “organic” label from USDA helps hop growers meet national standards. In the process, ensuring that from bud to product, hops are sourced organically.

**GOOD BINES:** Good Bines is a farm-focused educational framework built on collaborative development and sharing of economic, social, and environmental practices. It was created and administered by the Hop Growers of America, the largest source of shared information and quality assessment between hops growers. Farms can earn several certificate types including food safety, risk assessment, or water and irrigation.

**SALMON-SAFE:** Salmon-Safe works with West Coast farmers, and other landowners, to reduce watershed impacts. This peer-reviewed certification program helps protect water quality, maintain watershed health, and restore habitat.



### Learn More

Oregon Hop Commission:  
[oregonhops.org](https://oregonhops.org)  
Hop Growers of America:  
[usahops.org](https://usahops.org)

10/2024

### Agricultural Development & Marketing Program



**OREGON  
DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE**

635 Capitol Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301-2532 USA  
503-986-4725  
[Ag.Market@oda.oregon.gov](mailto:Ag.Market@oda.oregon.gov)  
[Oregon.gov/ODA](https://Oregon.gov/ODA)