

IGN

39.th Annual Report 2025

*Da beste Dropfa kimt vom Hopfa**

(* Bavarian for “Great beer begins with great hops”)



The IGN Qualitätshopfen GmbH team in the summer of 2025 during the workshop in Tettnang

Dear Readers,

it is my pleasure to once again provide you with an overview of the developments surroundingour IGN quality hop of crop 2025.

The past year has presented us at IGN with many challenges – and at the same time made us stronger. We remain deeply engaged with the challenges in the area of crop protection. The phase-out of proven active ingredients, stricter regulatory requirements, and growing demands for sustainability require our hop growers to demonstrate the highest level of expertise and care. At the same time, we are facing declining beer sales – both nationally and internationally. Many breweries are struggling with declining output, rising costs, and increasing competitive pressure. The result of these developments is a necessary market adjustment. Hop fields have already been idled to better align with supply and demand – a painful but necessary step for the future viability of our farms and our entire industry.

And yet: Despite all the structural challenges, there are numerous positive signs at the IGN. The 2025 harvest was good overall, and the quality is extremely satisfactory, which is primarily thanks to our dedicated hop growers.

With the planning and initial construction work for our own cold storage facility, we are making targeted investments in quality, flexibility, and independence. This project is a clear commitment to our location and our long-term strategy. At the same time, we are creating a new IGN home in Niederlauterbach – IGN's hometown.

A key factor in our success remains our strong, dedicated team. It fills me with pride that we have a stable workforce and that welcomed trainee Katharina Nutz to our ranks. With great gratitude – and also a touch of sadness – we bid farewell this year to our esteemed Sylvia Duna as she enters her well-deserved retirement. Over many years, she helped build and shape IGN, supporting the company with extraordinary dedication. We are deeply grateful to her for her tireless commitment and loyalty. We are all the more pleased that we have been able to secure a worthy successor in Teresa Breitner. As the granddaughter of our company founder Georg Breitner, she uniquely bridges tradition and the future.

A special highlight was our team workshop in Tettnang. Together, we worked intensively on our strategic direction as well as on the relaunch of our corporate design. At the same time, we are continuously working on integrating new technical solutions and actively addressing the digital challenges of our time. Our "Bavarian Hopfenfest by IGN" in the U.S. was a completesuccess and once again underscored the appreciation of our hop qualities. Our traditional IGN Hop Day once again provided an excellent platform for exchange and networking between breweries and hop growers, and Drinktec in September was also an important meeting place with partners from all over the world.



I would therefore like to extend my special thanks to our IGN, our customers, our partners and our entire IGN team. We all form the foundation of IGN. Times remain challenging, but we face them with foresight, drive, and confidence, and we are tackling the tasks ahead with determination.

I thank you for your loyalty to IGN and look forward to another year of trusting cooperation.

With warm regards from the Hallertau region
Hops & Malt – God bless it!

Yours, Mario Scholz
Managing Director, IGN Qualitätshopfen GmbH

Contents

4 We Are IGN

5 IGN Qualitätshopfen GmbH
6 The 6 Pillars of IGN
8 Generational Transition at the IGN Association
10 IGN Association Summer Trip to Slovenia
12 IGN Association Summer Festival
14 IGN Association Candlemas Ride
15 IGN hop growers at the German Hop Champions

16 Added Value IGN

17 Hop Queen Theresa Eisenrieder
18 Biodiversity Scenery Eichelberg
20 Bavarian Hopfenfest by IGN
21 IGN-Team-Workshop
22 IGN-Hopfentag 2025
26 Drinktec Munich
27 Brew Asia – Bangkok, Thailand
28 Focus on Alpha, Aroma, and Quality
29 The Gruppe Bio Hopfen expanding into new markets

30 Statistics & Data

31 Sustainable production data – Hop Key Figures
32 Weather data from 2025
33 Climatic Conditions – Yield – Progress in Breeding
35 Comparisons of the Findings Concerning Hop Quality for Crop Year 2025: Mean Values for IGN and the Hallertau
36 Mean Alpha Acid Values for the Hallertau & IGN from 2016 – 2025
37 Hop Farms in Germany
38 Changes in the Area under Cultivation in Germany
39 World hop areas & world hop production
42 Development of the global hop market
43 Development of the German beer market

28





5

20







22

12





17

26







21

01.

We Are IGN

Information and updates about the IGN in 2025

IGN Qualitätshopfen GmbH

IGN Qualitätshopfen GmbH is a hop marketing company owned by hop growers.

Since our founding in 1990 (GmbH), we have specialized in the marketing of high-quality hops. The foundat on for our company was laid by the merger of the IGN Association in 1987 in Niederlauterbach.

Our goal is to be a reliable partner for top-quality hop products – and at the same time actively promote hop cultivation in our region. We address current and future developments with forward-looking innovations and a strong commitment to creativity.

Thanks to our many years of experience and close collaboration with our hop growers, we can offer a wide range of high-quality hop varieties. Our products are carefully selected and grown and processed under strict quality controls.

We understand our customers' needs and do everything in our power to consistently provide them with first-class service. Our goal is to build long-term partnerships – and to succeed together. It is very important to us to earn the trust of renowned breweries and to see our hop products used in their beers.

With passion, expertise, and dedication, we develop tailor-made solutions – individual, creative, and practical. We place great value on customer satisfaction and direct communication with our growers, partners, and customers.

Our team brings together people from diverse backgrounds – from hop growing, directly from breweries, or even without prior experience with hops. But one thing unites us all: our enthusiasm for this extraordinary plant.

The IGN Advisory Board

Behind IGN Qualitätshopfen GmbH, in addition to the team, stands another important body – the IGN Advisory Board. This board consists of 6 IGN shareholders who stand behind IGN with passion and tireless dedication. Especially in recent months, the upcoming construction project has demanded a great deal of effort, time, and patience – all of which they bring to the table.

With the IGN Advisory Board, the company is ideally positioned to continue successfully mastering the challenges of the market and achieving its business goals.



From left to right: Advisory Board Chair Sebastian Kürzinger, Vice Chair Johannes Hagl, Stefan Finkenzeller, Anton Wittmann, Johann Rauscher, Stefan Eisenrieder

We are the new faces behind IGN, and we'd like to introduce ourselves:

Teresa Breitner

Hi there, I'm Teresa Breitner, 23 years old, and I'm from the beautiful town of Niederlauterbach.

Both of my parents come from hop-farming families in Niederlauterbach. This sparked my interest in agriculture at an early age, which is why I decided to pursue a dual degree in agriculture after high school while simultaneously completing an agricultural apprenticeship. During this time, I was able to gain valuable experience on both a dairy farm and a hop farm. I have particularly fond memories of two months spent on an Irish farm, during which I gained many new insights.

Last year, I had the opportunity to complete an internship at IGN and get to know all areas of the business. I then worked as a student employee and have been a permanent member of the team since March.

I am very excited to be part of IGN and to work in an industry that thrives on so much passion and dedication. The collaboration between



us, growers, and brewers inspires me – and I am eager to see what the future holds.

The 6 Pillars of IGN

Hops are our passion and our life's work. The Hallertau and its traditions are our home.

We don't wait for others but actively move forward and take responsibility for our actions and everyone involved.

We hold ourselves and our products to the highest standards, just as we do our actions and our services.

We grew up in the hop garden.

We take our destiny by the reins.

Quality pays off.

Katharina Nutz

Hi, I'm Katharina, I'm 16 years old, and I've been working at IGN since early August 2025 as an apprentice office management.

I grew up on a hop farm in Neustadt and help out there on the side. This gives me first-hand knowledge of the work and the passion behind this special natural product.

During the Easter break in 2024, I had the opportunity to complete a one-week internship at IGN. Even back then, I was fascinated by the love and enthusiasm for hops at IGN, as well as by the team, which welcomed me so warmly. That's why I ultimately decided to start my apprenticeship at IGN.

I am all the more delighted to now be part of the link between growers and breweries and to actively help shape the marketing of our hops.

I am very much looking forward to the rest of my training at IGN, to new challenges, valuable knowledge, and many exciting insights into the world of hops – and to continuing to be part of this great team.



For everyone involved. That's why we are committed to fairness, transparency and respect.

We are there when you need us and are open to the concerns and problems of others.

We seek personal, honest and direct conversation. We build bridges between all parties and create understanding.

It has to be worthwhile.

Talk to us!

*Hock' ma uns z'am.**

growing together

(* Bavarian for "Let's sit down together and talk")

Generational Transition at the IGN Association

At the IGN Association's annual general meeting on January 28, 2026, at Gasthaus Reich, a significant generational transition took place at the top of the association.

After six years as president, Sebastian Kürzinger handed over the position to his successor, Georg Kraus. Kürzinger, who has served the association since 2011 – first as a board member and then as first chairman starting in 2019 – wishes to focus more of his energy in the future on his role as chairman of the advisory board at IGN Qualitätshopfen GmbH, while also making room for the younger generation.

Georg Kraus becomes the youngest president in the club's history

With Georg Kraus, the members unanimously elected the youngest chairman in the history of the IGN Association at the age of 25. A native of Raitbach, he comes from a hop-growing farm near Pörnbach and has been working at IGN Qualitätshopfen GmbH since November 2024 as head of hop purchasing and in international sales. Bernhard Weichenrieder was confirmed in his position as second chairman.

In addition to Kürzinger, the association bid farewell to other long-standing board members: Helmut Schmid, who served as secretary since 2003 with great dedication and reliability, as well as board members Michael Eisenmann and Stefan Finkenzeller, who remained loyal to the association for more than 15 years. Ludwig Ettenhuber also stepped down from the board.

In the new board, Theresa Eisenrieder was confirmed as first secretary, Kathrin Lutz as first treasurer, Anton Kiermeier as second treasurer, and Johannes Hagl as an assessor. Newly elected were Christof Lechner



Farewell to Long-Serving Board Members

From left to right: Michael Eisenmann, Helmut Schmid, Sebastian Kürzinger, Stefan Finkenzeller



The new IGN Executive Board

From left to right: Michael Preitsameter, Theresa Eisenrieder, Leonhard Breitner, Thomas Haage, Georg Kraus, Kathrin Lutz, Johannes Hagl, Anton Kiermeier, Bernhard Weichenrieder (Christof Lechner is absent)

as 2nd Secretary and the board members Leonhard Breitner, Michael Preitsameter, and Thomas Haage. The outgoing board members Sebastian Kürzinger and Helmut Schmid will remain with the association in the future as cash auditors.

The financial report was positive: The association managed its finances soundly, and the cash audit revealed no issues.

Before the new elections, outgoing First Chairman Sebastian Kürzinger thanked the Managing Director of IGN Qualitätshopfen GmbH, Mario Scholz, as well as the partners and associations – in particular the State Institute for Agriculture (LfL) and the Hopfenring Hallertau – for their many years of trusting and productive cooperation.

Managing Director Mario Scholz also paid tribute to the outgoing board members for their consistently constructive cooperation as equals. He emphasized that the hop industry faces challenging times. This makes it all the more important for the board to stand together, set new priorities, and drive forward IGN's pioneering spirit. Scholz welcomed the rejuvenation of the board and warmly welcomed all new members to the IGN family.

The IGN Association

Since its founding, the IGN Association has formed the foundation of the entire IGN organization and brings together over 100 hop-growing families from the Hallertau region.

IGN Association Summer Trip to Slovenia

In 2025, a group from the Interessengemeinschaft Qualitätshopfen Niederlauterbach Association once again set out on its traditional summer trip – this time to idyllic Slovenia. Amid breweries, hops, and culinary delights, the trip provided a successful opportunity to exchange ideas on new agricultural techniques, unique beers in Slovenia, and many new experiences.

Day 1: On the Trail of Hops – Heading to Slovenia

At the break of dawn, the IGN hop growers set off on their journey by bus. The excitement for the summer trip was already palpable as they departed. Around noon, they made their first stop at Lake Wörthersee. A hearty lunch followed by a walk along the lake provided an opportunity to stretch their legs and gather new energy for the rest of the journey ahead. By evening, the group finally arrived at their hotel. After the long day on the bus, the group wrapped up the first day with a dinner together in a cozy atmosphere and got in the mood for the upcoming days of the summer trip.

Day 2: Hops, Wood, and Craftsmanship

Well-rested and refreshed, the next day began with a visit to the company **"Uniforest"**, a leading manufacturer of forestry machinery, particularly in the field of cable winches and wood splitters. The tour began with an informative presentation on the company's development, corporate philosophy, and key production areas. Following this, the participants were given an interesting glimpse into the manufacturing process and technical operations on site.

The trip then continued to **Zatec to the Institute for Hop Growing and Brewing**. Also part of the program was the adjacent ecological museum for hop growing and brewing. The group was warmly welcomed and guided through the exhibition. A humorous moment arose when the museum guide initially did not realize that the guests themselves were experienced hop growers who are very familiar with the topic of hop cultivation. Following the tour, the group was invited to a shared snack with beer tasting. In a convivial atmosphere, this provided an opportunity for personal conversations and initial professional exchanges. This was followed by a lively discussion and Q&A session. Numerous technical topics related to hop research, market developments, and current challenges in hop cultivation were discussed. The intensive exchange underscored the importance of international networking within the industry and rounded off the visit in a professionally and personally enriching way.

The next stop was no less exciting – a **beer fountain in Zatec**, where you could only tap a beer using a special glass. In the afternoon, the tour continued to the **"Clef**



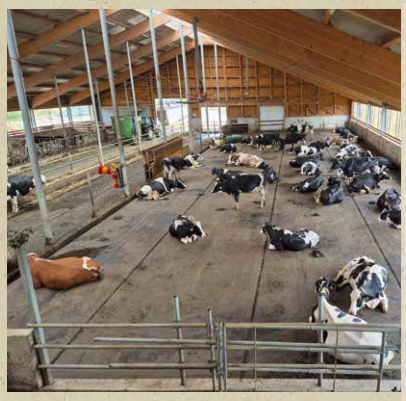




Guided tour of the Museum of Hop Growing and Brewing in Zatec (left), visit to Uniforest (top right), beer fountain in Zatec (bottom right)







Group photo,
Flower and Nature Park
in Mozirskigaj,
"Cretnik" dairy farm in Pernovo

Brewery". The "Clef Brewery" is a craft beer brewery in the small village of Arya, nestled among hop gardens, where tradition, beer, and community come together. The hop growers were given a tour of the brewery – what made this special was that the brewery ages its beers in whiskey barrels, which gives the beers a unique character. Not only the taste, but also the red color of the beer was something special. In addition to the very informative beer tasting, the group enjoyed American burgers and beer for dinner together.

Day 3:
Diverse Insights and a Shared Finale

On the penultimate day, the group split up. The ladies took a trip to **Mozirskigaj** and visited the famous flower and nature park there. The park is known for its lovingly designed flower beds, themed gardens, and traditional buildings from the region. The visit offered the opportunity for a relaxing stroll through the grounds and to discover the diverse flora. This was followed by some time in the city to explore the surroundings and share impressions from the flower park.

Meanwhile, the men's group made their way to the company **"SIP"**, a manufacturer of agricultural machinery. Among other things, the company produces rakes, manure spreaders, and other agricultural machinery. Afterward, the group visited the "Cretnik" dairy farm in Pernovo, which is one of the most modern free-range barns for cows and young cattle in Slovenia.

Later, the entire group met again and visited together the **"Rojnik" hop farm**. The family-run farm has been growing hops for over 100 years. Particularly noteworthy is the modern irrigation and fertilization system, which enables precise and controlled care of the plants. After a tour of the hop gardens, the group continued on to the "Greengold Brewing" brewery.

There, they first toured the brewery, where the participants gained insight into the beer-making process. The tour was accompanied by a beer tasting, during which various beers from the brewery could be sampled. Afterward, the hop growers from Hallertau were warmly welcomed by representatives of the Slovenian Hop Association and the Slovenian Hop Queen.

The day concluded with a celebration in a traditional hay barn. A shared dinner featuring meat from the smoker and various salads provided a wonderful opportunity to bring the trip to a convivial close and enjoy one last evening together.

Day 4:
Journey home with many new impressions

The next morning, the return journey to their familiar home region, the Hallertau, began. The trip offered all participants numerous new impressions. The one-day journey home on the fourth and final day provided an opportunity to reflect on the many new experiences and adventures.



IGN Association Summer Festival

On August 1, 2025, the IGN Association held its traditional summer festival.

The members gathered to enjoy a convivial evening together and foster personal connections within the association. This event has since become an integral part of IGN's community life and is now an indispensable fixture on the annual calendar of events.

The origins of this tradition date back to 2002. During a board meeting at that time, Georg Weber, the second chair of the advisory board, proposed the idea of a joint beer and barbecue party. The idea behind it was to give something back to the members of IGN



Association for their commitment and solidarity, while also creating a setting for a cozy get-together. This is how today's summer festival came to be, which to this day is all about community, exchange, and conviviality.

This year's summer festival began, as is tradition, with a welcome speech by the first chairman of IGN Association, Sebastian Kürzinger. In his address, he warmly welcomed all members and guests in attendance and expressed his delight at the large turnout. A special highlight of the evening was the introduction of the three candidates for the election of the Hallertau Hop Queen 2025/2026. Anna Kappelmeier, Franziska Mitterhuber, and Theresa Eisenrieder were introduced to the IGN community and then took the opportunity to address the guests personally with a few words. The reigning Hop Queen, Eva-Maria Pichlmeyer, and Vice Hop Queen, Anna Fischer, were also in attendance at the IGN Summer Festival. In a special and deeply moving gesture, the two sang the Hallertau Song together with all the members present. Following this, Mario Scholz, Managing Director of IGN Qualitätshopfen GmbH, also addressed the members. He also introduced Katharina Nutz, IGN's apprentice, who officially began her training that day.

After the speeches, the buffet was finally opened. The summer festival once again had plenty to offer in terms of cuisine. This year, guests could look forward to roast beef cooked on-site with dumplings, as well as a diverse selection of salads. To round out the Bavarian feast, a generous cake buffet with coffee was offered, which was warmly received by the guests and provided a cozy conclusion to the event. Despite initially cloudy weather and light rain, the sun came out just in time for dinner. As every year, the event provided a pleasant atmosphere for conversations and initial assessments of the upcoming hop harvest.

The summer festival reflects an important core principle of IGN. One of the company's six pillars is "Hock'ma uns z'am" (Let's get together). This embodies the personal, honest, and direct exchange with hop growers and breweries. As a hop-growing company, it is particularly important to IGN to maintain close contact with its hop growers and to provide opportunities for mutual exchange. TheIGN Association summer festival thus remains an important gathering place – an evening that uniquely combines tradition, community, and a connection to hops.

*"Hock´ma uns z´am" **

Thank you very much

to the Schneider family and Stiagnbräu in Ottersried for letting us host the IGN Summer Festival in this beautiful hall!

(* Bavarian for "Let's sit down together and talk")





IGN Association Candlemas Ride

The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, which marks the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of the days growing longer, provided a fitting occasion once again this year for the IGN Association's traditional Candlemas drive on February 2, 2026.

Modern Agricultural Technology at HORSCH Maschinen GmbH

The first stop took the group to Schwandorf to visit HORSCH, a leading international manufacturer of innovative agricultural technology. The participants received a warm welcome upon arrival. A special highlight was the personal greeting from company founder Michael Horsch.

During their direct conversation, he first expressed interest in hops as well as the current situation and development of the hop market. He then gave an impressive account of his own career and the company's origins. In doing so, he provided fascinating insights into HORSCH's development, its global locations, and future plans. His remarks on international markets and the rising demand for large, high-performance machines – particularly in the U.S. – were especially insightful.

This in-depth discussion was followed by a group lunch on-site, where participants had the opportunity to further discuss their impressions in a relaxed setting.

The group then received exciting insights into the company's production halls and testing facilities during a detailed tour of the plant. The modern manufacturing processes and the sheer size of the machines impressively demonstrated the company's innovative strength and capabilities.



Traditional Brewing Artistry at the Eichhofen Castle Brewery

The trip then continued to the Eichhofen Castle Brewery. There, the participants were personally welcomed by the master brewer and given a tour of the brewery. The tour provided a vivid insight into the production of regional beer specialties and the individual steps of the brewing process.

After the tour, the day concluded on a relaxed note, with a small beer tasting serving as the setting for a friendly exchange. In the late afternoon, the group finally began the return journey to Niederlauterbach.

The 2026 Candlemas trip once again represented a successful combination of exciting insights into modern agricultural technology and traditional brewing craftsmanship. The visit to HORSCH impressively demonstrated the innovative strength and international orientation of a leading company, while the Eichhofen Castle Brewery underscored the importance of regional craftsmanship. At the same time, the excursion offered a valuable opportunity for exchange and strengthened cohesion within the IGN Association. An all-around successful day that will remain a fond memory for all participants.





IGN hop growers at the German Hop Champions

As has been the tradition, the evaluation of hop samples for the 49th German Hop Exhibition took place at the Hüll Hop Research Center in 2025.

The date set for this was October 30, 2025. As in previous years, a top variety was selected for each hop variety. In addition, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Home Affairs (BMLEH) awarded federal honorary prizes in the categories of aroma hops, sustainable Hüller aroma hops, and bitter hops.

Experts from across the hop and brewing industries gathered for the evaluation. In a total of five working groups, 131 hop samples from 17 different varieties and all German growing regions were evaluated. All relevant characteristics were included in the overall evaluation, with the value-determining constituents and the aroma receiving the highest weighting.

The number of samples submitted per variety and growing region was based on their respective importance for cultivation and the size of the growing area. As in previous years, the majority of the samples impressed with very good external quality. The harvest was predominantly clean, and points were deducted only in isolated cases due to an elevated proportion of leaves and stems. The color and luster of the hop samples were also at an above-average level despite numerous rainy days during the harvest. This is attributable in particular to advances in drying and conditioning made possible by many years of research by the LfL. In terms of cone development, there was significant variability in cone size between the individual lots, which is primarily attributable to differences in water supply during the cone development phase. The degree of leaf shedding and the associated proportion of cone leaves varied by variety and led to deductions for some samples. In this area, there is still room for improvement at some farms. A particular challenge in 2025 the control of "Peronospora" and the "common spider mite." In some cases, follow-up treatments were also necessary for the hop aphid required follow-up treatments in individual cases. The alpha acid contents for all evaluated varieties were within the range of long-term average values. The hop was described overall as harmonious, typical of the variety, and somewhat more intense compared to the previous year, which was reflected in high aroma ratings.

Overall, the hops of the 2025 vintage are characterized by good to very good quality. The total scores achieved were at a high level. Both the variety winners and the overall winners awarded Federal Honors and "Hop Champions 2025," the field of participants was extremely close, so that often only small point differences decided the rankings. In several cases, when scores were tied, the most important individual criteria had to be considered. For aromatic varieties, these were primarily the aroma scores, followed by the alpha acid content. For the sustainable Hüller aromatic hops, the aroma scores were also decisive, supplemented by the oil content. For bitter varieties, alpha acid content was the primary consideration, followed by aroma values.

Overall, the hops from the 2025 harvest are of good to very good quality.



IGN hop growers were also successfully represented in the various categories. In the "Sustainable Hüller Aromatic Hops" category, Martin Schleibinger from Niederlauterbach was honored and received the bronze medal for his Hallertau Blanc variety. IGN supplier Michael Eisenmann from Ossenzhausen also impressed as the variety winner with his Herkules variety.

We congratulate all the winners on their outstanding achievements.

02.

Added Value IGN

IGN offers real added value –
expertise, a network, and much more …

Hop Queen Theresa Eisenrieder

On August 11, 2025, at the Wolnzach Folk Festival, our IGN team member Theresa Eisenrieder was crowned Hallertau Hop Queen for the 2025–2026 term. At her side are Franziska Mitterhuber – also from an IGN member company – as Vice Hopand Anna Kappelmeier as Hop Princess.



The Hallertau Trio 25/26: Anna Kappelmeier (Hop Princess), Theresa Eisenrieder (Hop Queen), Franziska Mitterhuber (Vice Hop Queen)

All three young women come from traditional hop-growing farms in the Hallertau region and impressed the judges during their presentation with their charm, expertise, and great passion for hop cultivation. Together, they form an impressive Hallertau trio, to whom we extend our warmest congratulations. The entire IGN team was on site in Wolnzach, cheering them on and actively supporting the candidates. The joy was naturally especially great when Theresa was elected Hop Queen – an occasion we celebrated together in style.

In honor of our new Hop Queen, we also took the opportunity to organize a surprise party at the IGN farm in Niederlauterbach. A group from the Wolnzach Market Band even provided the festive atmosphere. Numerous guests had come to congratulate Theresa in person: the IGN Advisory Board, association members, the IGN team, as well as friends and family. Over a barbecue and in a convivial atmosphere, toasts were raised repeatedly to the new Hallertau Hop Queen – an all-around successful and unforgettable afternoon.















An exciting election night in Wolnzach and a surprise party for Theresa at IGN



Biodiversity Scenery Eichelberg

A project in constant development

The Biodiversity Scenery Eichelberg symbolizes not only the promotion of biodiversity in hop cultivation, but also the close collaboration between the Hüll Hop Research Center and the Interessengemeinschaft Qualitätshopfen Niederlauterbach Association (IGN). The land is primarily managed by three IGN farms and covers a total of 85 hectares.

Promoting Biodiversity

The goal of the project is to use simple methods to ecologically enhance areas that have been little or not at all used, thereby contributing to the promotion of biodiversity. At the same time, the aim is to ensure that the productivity of the high-quality hop gardens as well as the arable and forest lands is not impaired, but ideally supported. The project demonstrates that economically successful hop cultivation and biodiversity can coexist harmoniously.

To create diverse habitats, measures such as dry stone piles, sand piles, deadwood piles, field copses, Benjes hedges, and flower strips are being implemented. These structures promote biodiversity both within and around the hop gardens. The practical implementation of the concept has been underway since 2021 and is accompanied by a targeted action plan.

Among the project's so-called flagship species are the woodlark, the partridge, and the tree sparrow. These and other hop-specific species make the goals and successes of biodiversity conservation vivid and tangible. Their typical habitat is in and around the hop fields of the Hallertau, where they have since become rare.

To make biodiversity tangible for the public, a roughly 2.5-kilometer-long nature trail was established in collaboration with the Office for Food, Agriculture, and Forestry in Pfaffenhofen/Ingolstadt (AELF), the Bavarian Society for the Protection of Birds (LBV) (LBV), and the local nature conservation authority. Along the route, 16 vividly designed panels provide information about the various habitats and their inhabitants.

The information panels help to heighten visitors' awareness of nature and increase acceptance of the measures implemented. At the same time, they convey the close connection between agriculture and nature as well as farmers' responsible stewardship of their environment.

As was the case last year, predatory mites were released this year on a hop-growing area within the biodiversity corridor in Eichelberg. The aim of the trial is the ecological control of the two-spotted spider mite in hop cultivation. Natural enemies of this pest include predatory mites such as Phytoseiulus persimilis. These feed on spider mites and help reduce damage to the plants.

For the first time this year, a drone was also used as part of the Exakt trial to release the predatory mites. The drone distributed the predatory mites evenly across the hop field. While tractors and specialized equipment were still used in 2024, a drone was also used for the first time in 2025 in the hop garden of hop grower Sebastian Kürzinger. A clearly noticeable reduction in infestation by the common spider mite was observed.

We also hope this application will yield further valuable insights into biological pest control in hop cultivation, enabling us to make its use even more efficient and cost-effective in the future.

Construction of the sky ponds

As announced last year, a total of two Himmelsweiher ponds were constructed this year. These are still waters fed exclusively by rainwater and have no natural inflow. The areas were excavated so that the water converges at a central point and is stored there.

The rainwater ponds serve as an ideal resting and feeding place for wildlife, waterfowl, and other bird species. In addition, they slowly release the stored water into the ground, supporting the local water cycle and promoting groundwater recharge.

Furthermore, the local hunter set up feeding stations for wildlife near the rainwater ponds, whose roof surfaces direct rainwater specifically into the ponds.

One of the Himmelsweiher ponds also has a water connection to the hop irrigation system of Anton Wittmann's hop garden. This serves to artificially supply the pond with water when it is in danger of drying out and to permanently secure it as a water source for wildlife.

For the future, plans are in place to involve the summer semester of the Dr. Eisenmann Agricultural School in the biodiversity work. Furthermore, the focus is primarily on the ongoing maintenance and care of the biodiversity landscape; no further major projects are currently planned.

"Biodiversity Scenery Eichelberg" represents an innovative collaboration between the Hüll Hop Research Center and the Interessengemeinschaft Qualitätshopfen Niederlauterbach e.V. (IGN) to promote biodiversity in hop cultivation.

This pioneering project demonstrates the commitment and collaboration of farmers, conservation organizations, and research institutions, paving the way for sustainable hop cultivation that balances both sustainability and economic goals.





Construction begins on the two rainwater retention ponds, which will store rainwater.

Bavarian Hopfenfest by IGN

On the occasion of the 2025 Craft Brewers Conference, IGN-Qualitätshopfen once again hosted its traditional "Bavarian Hopfenfest by IGN" in the United States this year.

This time, the event was held at an extra ordinary venue: a former church that is now St. Joseph's Brewery – a place whose unique character and historic charm provided an unforgettable setting for the occasion. Around 300 guests attended the festival at St. Joseph's Brewery & Public House. Under the tried-and-true motto "Brewers & Friends," the focus was on personal interaction: existing connections were nurtured, new ones were made, and a shared passion for exceptional beers was celebrated.

This year's Hopfenfest in the U.S. was held at a unique venue: a former church that now serves as the headquarters of St. Joseph's Brewery

Once again, the collaboration beers brewed specifically for the "Bavarian Hopfenfest by IGN" were a special highlight. Year after year, the collaboration with internationally renowned breweries underscores the close partnership and impressively demonstrates how unique beers are created through shared commitment and creativity – brewed, of course, with our IGN quality hops:

"Sunglider"
by Firestone Walker Brewing Company

"Hop Queen"
by Russian River Brewing Company

"Velvet Glow"
by Russian River Brewing Company

"Pale Bearer"
by St. Joseph Brewery & Public House

"Kellerbier"
by Templin Family Brewing in collaboration with Crosby Hops

"Prinz Crisby"
by Deschutes Brewery

As a token of appreciation, all participating breweries received a traditional stone mug with an engraved pewter lid – a lasting memento of the successful collaboration and shared experience at the "Bavarian Hopfenfest by IGN." The event was given a festive atmosphere by the presence of the Bavarian Beer Queen and the Hallertau Hop Queen, who graced the Hop Festival with their presence and impressively represented Bavarian brewing and hop culture.







IGN-Team-Workshop

This year‘s IGN team workshop took place from July 10 to 12, 2025, at Hopfengut No. 20 in Tettnang.

Tour of the Bentele Farm

The team arrived at the Bentele family farm in Dietmannsweiler on Thursday evening. During a personal tour of the farm, Robert Bentele provided fascinating insights into the brewery, the cattle barn, and hop cultivation. As a sustainably certified operation and long-standing supplier of Tettnang aroma hops to IGN, this presented a valuable opportunity to get to know the people and processes behind the business more closely.



Workshop – Day 1: Team Building

The workshop officially began on Friday morning at Hopfengut No. 20. The first day was all about the team: personal introductions encouraged interaction and further strengthened cohesion within the group. After a joint lunch break at the Hopfengut’s restaurant, participants were given a tour of the Hopfengut by Lukas Locher, which has been revitalized with a new, modern look in recent years. The Hopfengut uniquely combines a hop farm with a hop museum, a restaurant, and a small brewery, bringing the world of hops to life for visitors. In addition, the Biohopfen group is based right on site and is an important partner of the IGN – especially when it comes to reliably supplying customers with high-quality organic hops. The day concluded with a group dinner at the “Max und Moritz” restaurant, where the impressive view and personal interaction took center stage.



Workshop – Day 2: Further Development of IGN

On Saturday, the focus was on the strategic development of IGN. Mario Scholz presented the company’s mission and provided insights into its future direction. Another item on the agenda was the presentation of the relaunch of the corporate design. The new, modern look underscores IGN’s identity as a down-to-earth company that successfully combines tradition and innovation.

The workshop played a key role in bringing the team closer together, deepening the exchange with local partners, and strengthening a shared understanding of IGN’s values and quality standards.



The IGN workshop in Tettnang – a successful blend of expertise, team building, and networking.

Mario Scholz & Lukas Locher, GBH



IGN-Hopfentag 2025

Our traditional “IGN-Hopfentag“ took place on August 21, 2025. This year, we were pleased to welcome our hop growers, breweries, and representatives from the scientific and business communities to the Rieder family’s hop farm in Buchersried.

The guests started the day with a warm welcome featuring white sausage and beer, and took the opportunity to chat in a relaxed atmosphere. Mario Scholz, Managing Director of IGN Qualitätshopfen GmbH, opened the event and welcomed the visitors.

Start of the lecture program

Johann Portner, head of the Hop Cultivation and Production Technology Working Group at the LfL, kicked off the lecture program. Under the title “Costs of Sustainable Hop Production,” he highlighted how the economic viability of hop cultivation can be ensured even under increasingly challenging conditions. The focus was on key production and marketing figures, the development of average yields, and the cost structure of hop production, including variable and fixed costs.

He also explained the specific additional costs of sustainable hop production and their impact on total costs, as well as the resulting cost-neutral hop prices.





The guests drove through the hop gardens of the Biodiversity Scenery Eichelberg in vintage Bulldogs – a truly special experience.

Vintage Bulldog Tour and Presentations in the Hop Garden

Afterward, guests had the opportunity to explore the "Eichelberg Biodiversity Area" on a roughly two-kilometer vintage Bulldog tractor tour. Kathrin Lutz from LfL Hüll presented the project, in which three IGN farms are jointly creating a diverse habitat across approximately 85 hectares – including ecological added value and serving as a model for future-oriented hop cultivation. In addition, Georg Kindsmüller from Hopfenring Hallertau e.V. provided an overview of vegetation development during the current 2025 harvest year and explained the challenges the farms faced this year.

After the tour and the presentations in the hop garden, the guests returned and took the opportunity for a short coffee and cake break before the lecture program continued.

Further presentations and exciting insights

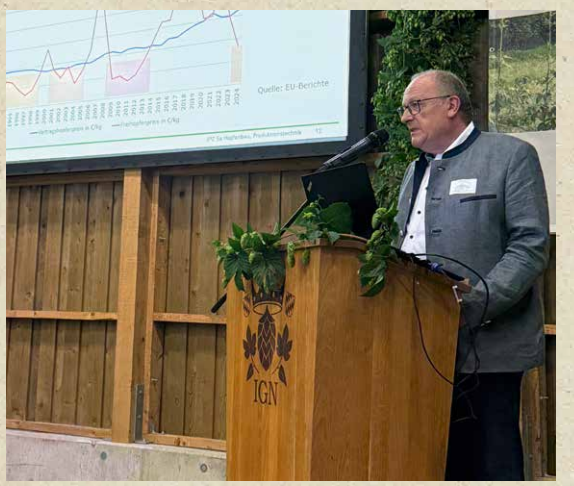
With the topic "From the hop garden to the office – software development at IGN," the program then shifted to the field of IT. Jörg Neumann, Managing Director of NeoGeeks, and Johannes Hägler presented IGN's new IT solution and demonstrated how the system migration is restructuring work processes from the hop garden to the office. Despite some challenges, concrete benefits are already evident, facilitating both administration and communication within IGN. Finally, an outlook on the future development of the software was provided.



The Rieder family of hop growers from Buchersried



Jörg Neumann, Managing Director of NeoGeeks, and Johannes Hägler



Johann Portner, head of the Hop Growing and Production Technology Research Group (Arbeitsgruppe Hopfenbau und Produktionstechnik at the LfL.



This was followed by the presentation "Hop Year 2025 Overview" by Sebastian Kürzinger, 1st Chairman of IGN Association He reported on difficult weather conditions: drought until mid-July, regional hail damage, and high pest pressure from aphids, spider mites, and downy mildew led to below-average crop development in many areas. Mario Scholz then presented the "IGN Hop Harvest Estimate 2025," explained the fundamentals of harvest estimation, and introduced the alpha monitoring data for calendar weeks 33 and 34. This allowed guests to track the development of the hop crop in the current year.

Adolf Schapfl, President of the Association of German Hop Growers e.V., then reported on the "Global Hop Situation." He made it clear that, despite declining acreage in some regions, there remains a structural oversupply that complicates marketing and poses major challenges for hop farms.

Walter König, Managing Director of the Braugersten-Gemeinschaft e.V., provided an update on the current supply situation for malting barley and malting wheat and explained the opportunities and risks for brewers.

The technical program concluded with Jakob Greimel, Head of Marketing, and Thomas Hämmerl, Master Brewer at the Hohenthanner Schlossbrauerei, who discussed the topic "Energy Efficiency in the Brewery – Bottling with District Heating."

They gave guests insights into the brewery and its products and demonstrated how innovative energy supply can yield both ecological and economic benefits for a medium-sized brewery.

Snacks and a relaxed exchange

Following the numerous presentations, the "IGN-Hopfentag 2025" concluded with a light meal, offering guests the opportunity for conversation and discussion. In this convivial setting, it became clear just how valuable this event is as a platform for professional dialogue: presentations, insights into current developments, and the close exchange between growers, brewers, researchers, and associations make "IGN-Hopfentag" a fixed and cherished event in the annual calendar of the entire industry.

The IGN sees itself as an important link between hop growers and brewers, while also providing useful information on research findings and association activities. We are already looking forward to the next Hop Day and the continued dialogue that continues to bring the industry together.











A heartfelt thank you

to the Rieder family for allowing the IGN Hop Day 2025 to take place on their farm, as well as to the speakers Georg Kindsmüller, Kathrin Lutz, Jörg Neumann, Sebastian Kürzinger, Adolf Schapfl, Walter König, Jakob Greimel, and Thomas Hämmerl.

A big thank you also goes to all the guests, participants, and contributors – without their commitment and active participation, the IGN Hop Day would not have been possible!



Drinktec Munich

IGN-Qualitätshopfen had its own booth at the „drinktec“ in Munich from September 15 – 19, 2025.

It’s always a highlight for us to welcome many of our customers from both Germany and abroad to our booth during the trade show. Personal, face-to-face contact is of great importance to us, and we are delighted to customers in person. The informative exchange and stimulating conversations with our growers and customers offer us great added value. It fills us with joy when IGN hop growers and breweries meet and exchange ideas at our booth.

The supporting program in Munich is also not to be missed – so a visit to the Oktoberfest opening was in order, and international customers in particular took advantage of this opportunity, and together we celebrated Bavarian beer culture at the Oktoberfest.

In addition, together with our customers, we visited the IGN hop farms in the Hallertau region, which were right in the middle of the harvest , allowing us to give them a firsthand look at the hop harvest firsthand and give them an give them an authentic feel for the hops.

We look back with joy on a successful trade show and would like to thank all hop growers, partners, and breweries for enriching the event with your visit.

Brew Asia – Bangkok, Thailand

IGN-Qualitätshopfen had its own booth at Brew Asia in Bangkok from October 16 – 17, 2025.

For us, the two days of the trade show provided an excellent opportunity to personally welcome many of our existing customers and partners from the Asian region to our booth. Direct interaction and face-to-face conversations are of great importance to us and play a key role in deepening existing relationships and establishing new ones.

A particular highlight for visitors to our booth was a collaboration beer brewed in partnership with ThaiSpirits. Naturally, this beer was brewed using IGN quality hops, offering guests the chance to experience firsthand the quality and distinctive aromatic characteristics of our hop varieties.

The focus was particularly on the Hüller varieties Mandarina Bavaria, Callista, and Tango. These aromatic varieties generated great interest and served as the starting point for numerous informative discussions with breweries and partners regarding their potential applications and possibilities.

We look back with pleasure on a successful trade show and would like to sincerely thank all customers, partners, and visitors who contributed to the success of Brew Asia 2025 through their engagement and interest.









Focus on Alpha, Aroma, and Quality

Hop assessement in the IGN hop selection room





IGN Hop Assessment: Evaluation and Quality Inspection of This Year's Hop Harvest

On November 12, 2025, IGN e. V. once again hosted a regulars' table discussion on the topic of hop grading, which once again generated great interest among members this year. The event focused entirely on the key quality characteristics of hops – aroma and quality.

At the start, Sebastian Kürzinger welcomed the members in attendance and opened the evaluation. Following this, Managing Director addressed the participants and, using the hop samples, explained their significance in relation to breweries' requirements and the marketing of high-quality hops.

Another key technical focus was the presentation of the hop champion samples. Anton Lutz from the LfL in Hüll presented the award-winning batches and provided insights into the underlying evaluations and results.

As the event progressed, a lively and technically informed discussion ensued, during which participants were able to share their questions and experiences regarding alpha, aroma, and quality. A special focus was placed on the evaluation of the quality results of the members' hops. Afterward, the hop growers themselves were called upon: As part of the assessment, this year's hop harvest was evaluated. Selected batches of all major varieties grown in the Hallertau region during the 2025 harvest were subjected to a detailed quality inspection. To ensure an objective assessment, the evaluation was conducted on an anonymous basis. Participants had access only to the Agrolab findings, the respective harvest period, and information on weather conditions during the harvest.

In addition to the technical exchange, the event once again highlighted the great importance of quality assurance in hop growing . It clearly demonstrated to the growers in attendance clearly demonstrated the decisive influence that careful cultivation, professional harvesting, and gentle drying have on the production of high-quality IGN hops.

Furthermore, the event provided a valuable platform for intensive exchange within the industry. Overall, this year's hop evaluation once again proved to be a successful and beneficial event that further strengthened awareness of quality hop production. IGN e. V. looks forward to continuing to conduct hop evaluations together with its members in the future.

The Gruppe Bio Hopfen expanding into new markets

The organic market in the brewing industry remains challenging. However, the past year has shown that organic hops can be a versatile raw material for a variety of industries.

Against the backdrop of declining beer consumption, new markets such as the production of non-alcoholic beverages, herbal teas, and tea are becoming increasingly attractive.

As a result, the Bio Hopfen Group was able to significantly increase sales in alternative markets during the last harvest.

Last year, new partnerships were established in the food, beverage, and health sectors, and existing ones were strengthened. Particularly in the area of non-alcoholic and health-oriented beverages, there are interesting developments and promising applications for organic hops. They offer a wide range of flavor profiles, from fresh and greento floral, and can significantly enhance products as a character-defining raw material.

There is a growing interest in hops as a raw material, particularly in the herbal and tea market. As a traditional medicinal plant, they are used in teas, extracts, and natural cosmetics.

Overall, new sales opportunities help broaden the value chain in organic hop cultivation and open up additional prospects.

And despite all this diversification, one thing remains clear: organic hops are a particularly good fit for beer – whether with or without alcohol.

The Gruppe Bio Hopfen continues to champion organic hop cultivation in Germany and is working to further develop existing and new applications in a meaningful way.

Your team at the Gruppe Bio Hopfen



@gruppe_bio_hopfen

www.gruppebio.de

03.

Statistics & Data

Sustainable production data – Hop Key Figures

Weather Conditions and Growth Trends in 2025

by Johann Portner and A. Baumgartner, M.S. in Agricultural Engineering

Weather and Growth Conditions

The 2025 hop season began with a warm and dry spring. In April, there was virtually no precipitation in Hüll, with only 5.0 mm recorded. Spring tasks such as uncovering, pruning, and rotary tilling could thus be carried out on schedule and under dry soil conditions, and conditions were ideal for bud break. Training began as early as the last ten days of April, as the plants developed rapidly. Under favorable growing conditions with moderate temperatures, the hops thrived and developed good lateral shoot formation.

Increasing dryness and, above all, midsummer temperatures in the second half of June and the first week of July led to drought stress as the season progressed. The hops restricted their growth in the apical region and exhibited only minimal lateral shoot development. At this point, everything pointed to a below-average harvest. The hops capitalized on sufficient rainfall and moderate temperatures in the period leading up to harvest with a long ripening phase and good cone formation, so that the deficit in growth at the top of the plants was ultimately well compensated for.

This year once again demonstrated that hop sites with good soil structure and high water-holding capacity had a clear advantage and were able to achieve good yields even without irrigation, despite the stress situation in early July.

Situation regarding disease and pest infestation

Lovage weevils occurred only locally and could be controlled with the pesticide Exirel, which is approved for emergency situations . Flea beetles, on the other hand, caused significant feeding damage to the shoots and trained hops in many areas.

Primary downy mildew infections also occurred more frequently due to the high downy mildew infection pressure from the previous season. In early June, the number of zoosporangia captured in spore traps reached the control threshold for the first time, triggering a control recommendation for all varieties. The hot and dry June significantly slowed the progression of the infestation, so that by the end of the season, with a total of 5 control calls, an average level of infestation was observed.

Powdery mildew was also less severe compared to the previous year. However, due to a lack of infection forecasts, control measures were carried out at regular intervals until shortly before harvest. The pathogen was barely kept in check using the regularly approved products. The somewhat cooler weather in May, along with abundant rainfall and moderate temperatures starting in July, favored Verticillium wilt, which reemerged more strongly in some areas in 2025.

The arrival of the hop aphid was within the normal range in terms of both timing and population density, so that control was possible in most cases with an initial treatment using Teppeki and a follow-up treatment with Movento SC. Nevertheless, there were locations where neither active ingredient proved sufficiently effective, and a follow-up treatment with Sivanto Prime – approved for emergency situations – had to be carried out. Infestation by the common spider mite began relatively early and remained at very high levels until the end of July, so that despite adequate control measures, yield losses due to spider mites were a concern. Intensive control and moderate temperatures until harvest alleviated the situation. As feared, “red” hops damaged by spider mites were therefore not harvested.

The further spread of the citrus viroid, or “Citrus Bark Cracking Viroid” (CBCVd), first detected in the Hallertau region in 2019, was again investigated in Bavaria in 2025 as part of a voluntary monitoring program. The infestation still appears to be very limited. The spread is proceeding only slowly and can be controlled by adhering to strict hygiene measures.

Weather data from 2025

compared to the 10- and 30-year averages

Month		Temperature at 2 m height* Average (°C)	Min. ø (°C)	Max. ø (°C)	Relat. Air humidity* (%)	Precipitation* (mm)	Days with precipitation* > 0,2 mm	Sunshine* (hours)
January	2025	0.7	-7.3	11.9	98.2	65.3	11.0	38.0
	10-y	0.4			96.0	57.5	16.9	36.0
	30-y	-2.0			86.7	56.8	14.8	49.4
February	2025	0.9	-7.2	14.9	96.4	18.0	9.0	75.0
	10-y	2.3			90.8	45.6	12.5	79.7
	30-y	-0.5			81.4	51.5	13.3	77.4
March	2025	5.5	-5.2	20.4	89.8	28.8	10.0	154.0
	10-y	5.2			83.5	35.8	12.5	154.5
	30-y	3.1			78.9	52.5	13.8	136.8
April	2025	11.0	-3.8	26.6	77.2	5.0	5.0	247.0
	10-y	9.5			77.9	42.7	10.7	202.8
	30-y	7.3			73.8	64.1	14.1	168.8
May	2025	12.8	-0.6	30.6	65.7	41.7	9.0	215.0
	10-y	13,6			80.4	86.4	14.0	210.5
	30-y	12.1			73.9	90.2	15.4	212.0
June	2025	19,4	5.5	33.2	71.1	79.6	12.0	266.0
	10-y	18.2			80.1	107.7	12.8	241.9
	30-y	15.3			74.6	106.9	15.3	222.5
July	2025	18.4	9.7	35.1	77.4	98.1	18.0	179.0
	10-y	19.3			79.9	71.0	12.6	249.6
	30-y	16.9			74.3	97.0	14.1	248.6
August	2025	17.8	5.4	34.8	82.0	69.9	12.0	224.0
	10-y	18.9			84.5	99.0	12.4	236.0
	30-y	16.2			78.2	98.7	13.8	223.1
September	2025	14.1	5.7	30.7	89.9	85.5	14.0	133.0
	10-y	14.3			88.8	60.9	11.1	180.3
	30-y	12.9			80.7	73.0	11.6	179.1
October	2025	8.7	0.2	22.8	90.9	54.9	16.0	82.0
	10-y	9.8			94.0	50.9	12.8	110.2
	30-y	8.0			84.2	58.5	11.0	119.3
November	2025	3.2	-9.7	17.4	96.6	67.5	14.0	57.0
	10-y	4.5			96.7	57.1	14.3	50.1
	30-y	3.0			85.5	64,1	14.4	56.2
December	2025	1.1	-11.1	13.7	97.6	16.1	9.0	32.0
	10-y	1.9			97.5	60.2	15.3	34.8
	30-y	-0.5			86.5	58.7	15.0	41.3
ø-year	**2025**	**9.5**	**-1.5**	**24.3**	**86.0**	**630.4**	**139.0**	**1,702.0**
10-year average		**9.8**			**87.6**	**777.9**	**167.4**	**1,786.0**
30-year average		**7.7**			**79.9**	**872.0**	**166.6**	**1,734.5**

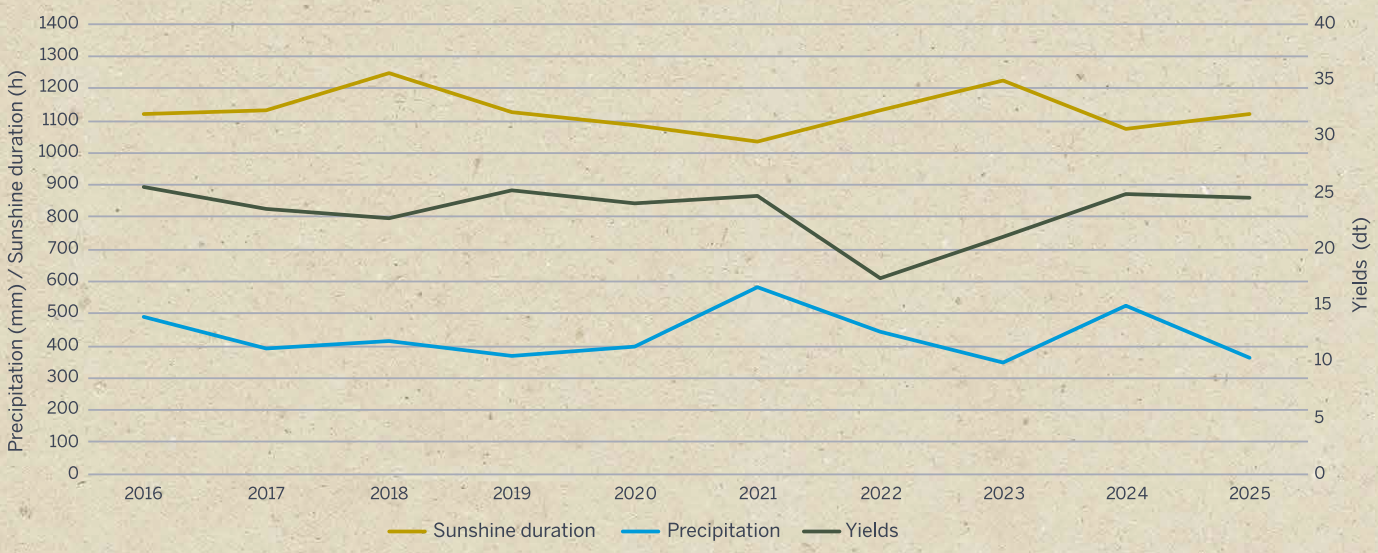
10-year average refers to the period 2016 – 2025
30-year average refers to the period 1961 – 1990

* Figures for a single location
Source: LD Johann Portner, Dipl.-Ing. agr.

Climatic Conditions – Yield – Progress in Breeding

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
*Sunshine duration (h) from May to September**										
May	208	266	243	168	213	175	256	235	206	248
June	192	281	244	305	179	287	279	301	212	281
July	237	220	284	250	280	196	214	246	246	194
August	262	236	265	225	224	163	172	197	245	256
September	219	127	212	178	192	214	211	245	167	143
Total	**1,118**	**1,130**	**1,248**	**1,126**	**1,088**	**1,035**	**1,132**	**1,224**	**1,075**	**1,122**
5-year ø			1,142.0					1,117.5		
*Precipitation (mm) from May to September**										
May	88.0	87.0	72.8	126.2	30.7	143.1	52.5	54.8	122.9	40.2
June	132.0	58.9	139.2	70.1	158.2	99.5	115.9	31.5	109.9	60.6
July	134.9	78.00	67.20	37.1	64.9	116.6	121.2	80.2	88.7	112.8
August	66.7	96.8	85.8	99.2	95.6	203.3	122.5	157.8	69.8	62.6
September	66.4	70.2	52.5	35.7	48.5	19.8	29.6	23.5	131.2	88.9
Total	**488**	**390.9**	**417.5**	**368.3**	**397.9**	**582.3**	**441.7**	**347.8**	**522.5**	**365.1**
5-year ø			416.2					458.4		
ø yields in the Hallertau (per ha) per variety in Germany (old areas)										
HKS	33.18	30.61	29.73	31.29	30.58	30.49	23.54	26.29	30.98	29.02
PER	23.46	19.65	19.06	22.19	19.84	21.82	12.03	18.39	19.59	20.55
HTR	23.26	19.43	20.28	20.06	19.60	20.95	13.01	17.65	20.91	20.09
MBA	29.54	27.32	26.09	29.60	27.69	23.59	20.35	21.76	24.22	27.20
ø yields in the Hallertau (per ha) of all varieties in Germany (old areas)										
Yield in dt	**25.5**	**23.57**	**22.73**	**25.17**	**24.04**	**24.74**	**17.43**	**21.06**	**24.95**	**24.57**
5-year ø			24.2					22.6		

Yields in the Hallertau in comparison to sunshine duration & precipitation (May–September)



* Average figures from all weather stations in Germany
Source: Agrarmetrologie Bayern



Comparisons of the Findings Concerning Hop Quality for Crop Year 2025: Mean Values for IGN and the Hallertau

Variety	*Water (H_2O) (%)*		*Leaf/stem content (%)*		*Hop waste (%)*		*Umbel leaf content (%)*		*„Bonus-Malus 2003“*	
	Hallertau	IGN	Hallertau	IGN	Hallertau	IGN	Hallertau	IGN	Hallertau	IGN
ANA	9.6	9.3	1.0	1.5	0.4	0.5	16.7	16.1	0.88	0.69
CAL	9.8	9.8	0.7	0.7	0.2	0.2	12.6	12.2	3.21	3.48
HAL	10.2	10.1	1.6	1.6	0.3	0.3	16.6	14.9	0.54	0.55
HBC	9.3	9.6	0.7	0.9	0.3	0.2	13.3	12.9	3.31	2.94
HEB	10.0	10.4	1.2	1.1	0.3	0.2	19.3	17.8	1.11	1.29
HKS	9.2	9.5	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.3	14.2	13.5	2.27	1.95
HMG	9.3	9.5	1.1	1.2	0.2	0.2	15.8	14.5	2.14	1.90
HMN	9.5	9.8	0.9	1.1	0.3	0.3	12.9	13.8	2.18	1.27
HTR	10.1	10.0	1.1	1.1	0.3	0.3	22.3	21.5	1.29	1.54
HTU	9.8	9.2	0.9	0.7	0.2	0.2	14.4	10.0	1.21	3.06
MBA	9.5	10.2	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.3	15.1	14.9	2.73	2.82
PER	9.8	9.9	1.3	1.3	0.3	0.3	22.9	22.8	0.66	0.89
SIR	9.9	10.1	1.3	1.1	0.3	0.3	15.3	16.7	1.69	1.78
SSE	9.9	10.2	1.7	1.8	0.4	0.3	21.3	16.1	0.29	0.68

Hallertau values: Hopfenring e.V., Fr. Grünig; IGN values: Agrolab

— THAT'S THE WAY IT SHOULD BE —



Optimal and default values

Water content
Optimal value: up to 10.5%

Leaf/stem content
Optimal value: up to 1.1%

Umbel leaves
Standard value: up to 26.0%

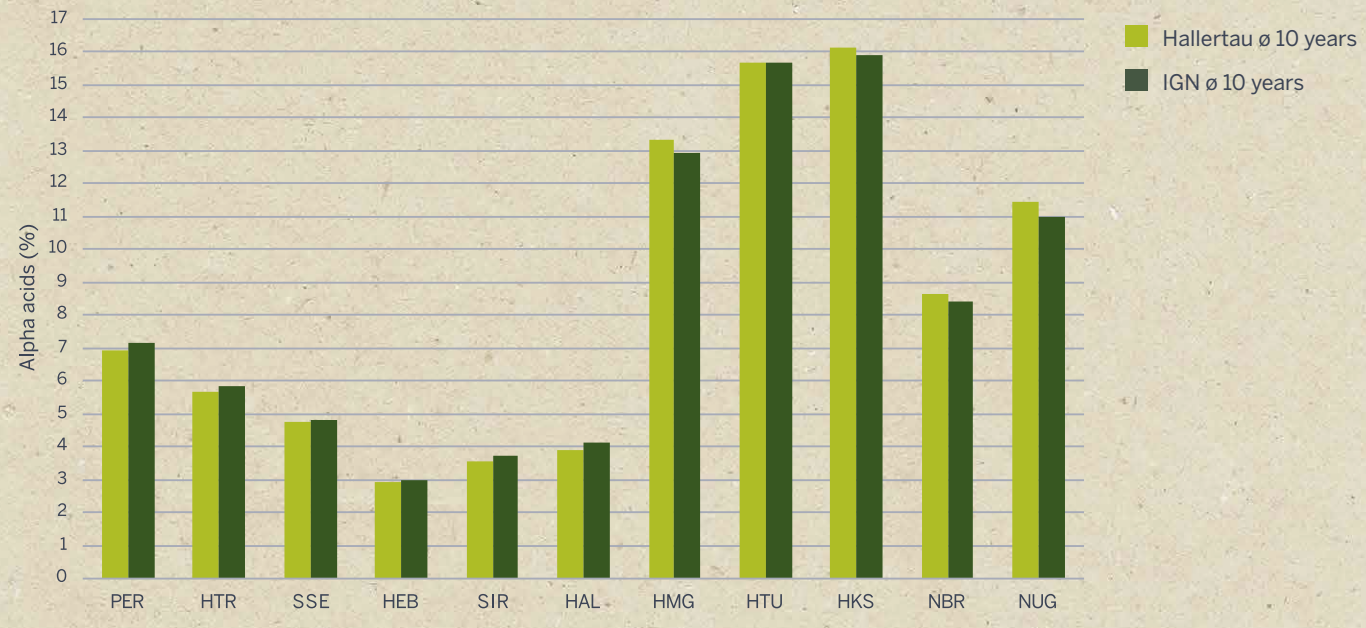
All hops have been tested in a neutral laboratory since 1995 (in accordance with the guidelines of the Working Group on Neutral Quality Assessment). evaluated. IGN's long-standing efforts consistently demonstrate that environmentally and resource-friendly production has a positive impact on quality outcomes.

For profitable high-quality hop production, specialized advisory services organized through the Hopfenring e.V., including on-site visits to farms, are essential. The "Bonus Malus 2003" shows the balance of the individual quality criteria, which is an important component for all IGN hop suppliers – especially for aromatic varieties – to guarantee good quality.

Mean Alpha Acid Values for the Hallertau & IGN from 2016 – 2025

		PER	HTR	HSSE	HEB	SIR	HAL	HMG	HTU	HKS	NBR	NUG
2016	Hallertau	8.2	6.4	5.2	2.8	4.0	4.3	14.3	17.6	17.3	10.5	12.9
	IGN	8.3	6.5	5.3	3.0	4.2	4.7	13.9	16.9	17.0	10.5	10.6
2017	Hallertau	8.2	6.4	5.2	2.8	4.0	4.3	14.3	17.6	17.3	10.5	12.9
	IGN	8.3	6.5	5.3	3.0	4.2	4.7	13.9	16.9	17.0	10.5	10.6
2018	Hallertau	5.5	5.0	3.5	2.0	3.3	3.6	11.6	13.6	14.6	7.4	10.1
	IGN	6.0	5.2	3.6	2.2	3.4	4.0	10.9	13.6	14.9	7.4	9.7
2019	Hallertau	6.7	5.4	4.4	2.5	3.3	4.1	12.3	16.1	16.2	8.1	10.6
	IGN	7.2	5.6	4.4	2.7	3.6	4.4	12.1	16.4	16.0	8.0	10.5
2020	Hallertau	7.4	6.3	5.2	3.3	4.2	4.5	14.2	15.5	16.6	9.1	12.0
	IGN	7.4	6.4	5.0	3.2	4.4	4.7	13.4	15.1	15.6	9.4	11.0
2021	Hallertau	9.0	6.1	6.4	4.6	4.3	5.2	16.0	17.8	18.5	10.5	11.1
	IGN	9.1	6.2	6.5	4.4	4.7	5.3	15.8	17.3	18.2	10.6	10.9
2022	Hallertau	4.9	5.2	3.3	1.9	2.6	3.1	12.2	14.6	15.4	6.4	9.9
	IGN	4.9	5.3	3.5	2.0	2.6	3.2	11.7	14.7	15.2	6.5	10.7
2023	Hallertau	6.0	4.9	4.7	3.0	3.1	2.9	11.8	13.8	13.9	7.5	11.9
	IGN	6.2	5.1	4.8	3.0	3.2	3.3	11.6	14.5	13.7	7.0	12.3
2024	Hallertau	6.2	5.3	3.9	2.5	3.2	3.3	12.9	15.9	15.8	8.3	10.9
	IGN	6.9	5.7	4.1	2.6	3.3	3.5	12.9	15.9	15.6	7.8	11.4
2025	Hallertau	7.0	5.7	5.6	3.7	3.8	3.7	13.8	14.1	15.9	8.0	12.0
	IGN	7.4	5.8	5.8	3.8	4.0	4.0	13.3	15.5	15.9	7.7	12.3
ø 5 years	**Hallertau**	**6.6**	**5.4**	**4.8**	**3.1**	**3.4**	**3.6**	**13.3**	**15.2**	**15.9**	**8.1**	**11.2**
ø 5 years	**IGN**	**6.9**	**5.6**	**5.0**	**3.2**	**3.6**	**3.9**	**13.1**	**15.6**	**15.7**	**7.9**	**11.5**
ø 10 years	**Hallertau**	**6.9**	**5.7**	**4.7**	**2.9**	**3.6**	**3.9**	**13.3**	**15.7**	**16.2**	**8.6**	**11.4**
ø 10 years	**IGN**	**7.2**	**5.8**	**4.8**	**3.0**	**3.7**	**4.1**	**13.0**	**15.7**	**15.9**	**8.4**	**11.0**

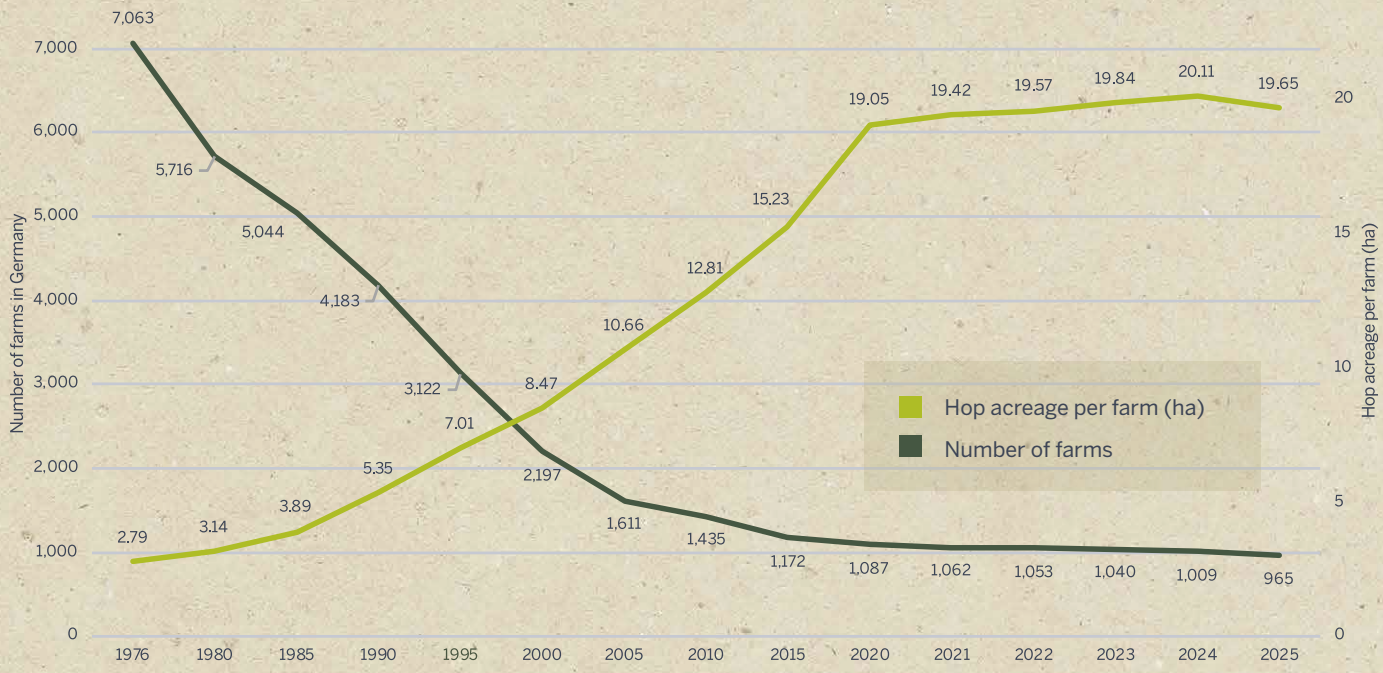
10-year average alpha acid values Hallertau & IGN



Source: Verband Deutscher Hopfenpflanzer e.V., IGN-Agrolab, 2025

Hop Farms in Germany

Development of the number of farms and average hop acreage per farm



Source: Verband Deutscher Hopfenpflanzer e.V., 2025

Hallertau farm size statistics for the 2025 harvest year

	Farms		*Areas*	
Farm size	*Number of farms*	*Percentage*	*Area in ha*	*Percentage*
0 – 4.99 ha	95	12.1%	302	1.9%
5 – 9.99 ha	144	18.3%	1,062	6.7%
10 – 19.99 ha	224	28.5%	3,318	20.8%
20 – 29.99 ha	168	21.4%	4,109	25.8%
30 – 39.99 ha	81	10.3%	2,810	17.6%
40 – 49.99 ha	30	3.8%	1,340	8.4%
über 50 ha	44	5.6%	3,009	18.9%
Total	**786**		**15,950**	

Source: Verband Deutscher Hopfenpflanzer e.V., 2025

IGN Member Businesses in 2025

Number of **IGN members** 106

of which active **hop growers** 82

of which **QM companies** 53

Total area of IGN farms in hectares (ha)

2,090.67

ø area of IGN farms in hectares (ha)

28.25

Source: Verband Deutscher Hopfenpflanzer e.V., 2025

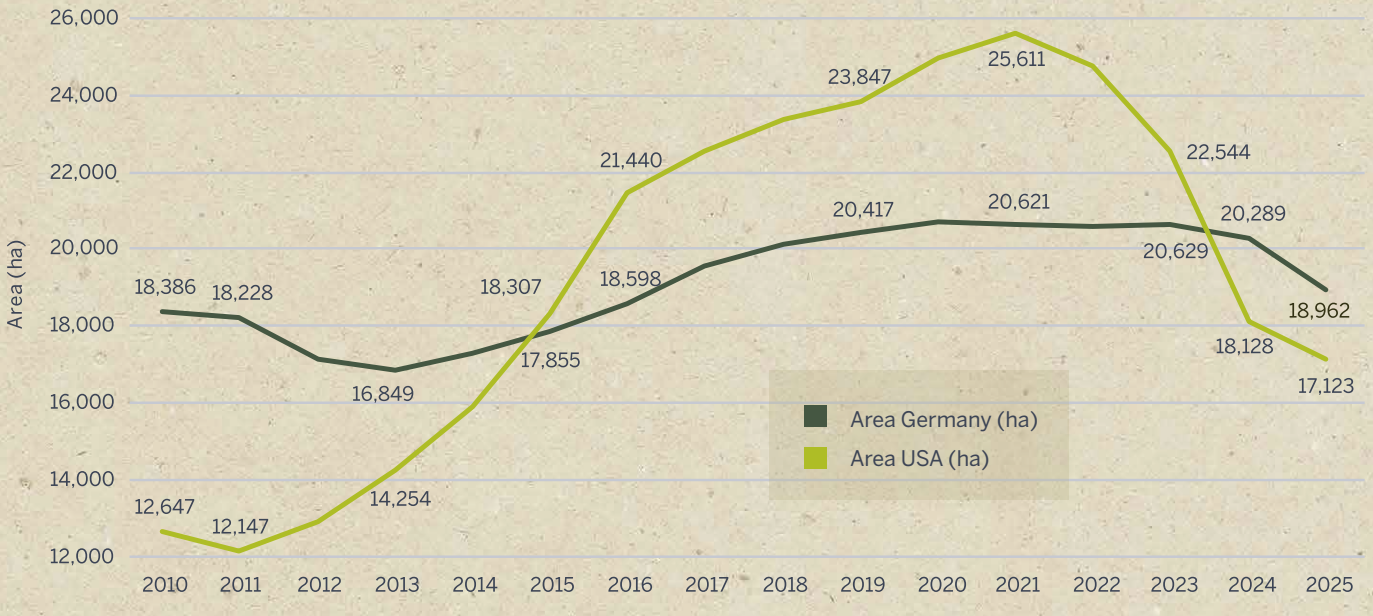
Changes in the Area under Cultivation in Germany

	2024			2025			Difference 2024/2025
	Young area (ha)	Old area (ha)	Total area (ha)	Young area (ha)	Old area (ha)	Total area (ha)	Total area (ha)
Amarillo	0.00	74.94	74.94	0.00	21.06	21.06	-53.88
Ariana	0.87	55.09	55.96	0.26	46.67	46.93	-9.03
Brewers Gold	0.00	12.24	12.24	0.00	10.21	10.21	-2.03
Callista	0.11	53.87	53.98	1.43	49.49	50.92	-3.06
Cascade	1.61	62.02	63.63	1.18	63.08	64.26	0.63
Diamant	0.96	19.71	20.67	0.00	12.97	12.97	-7.70
Hallertauer Blanc	0.52	90.35	90.87	0.00	65.26	65.26	-25.61
Hallertauer Gold	0.43	6.81	7.24	0.00	6.63	6.63	-0.61
Hallertauer Magnum	11.90	1,607.92	1,619.82	35.36	1,292.13	1,327.49	-292.33
Hallertauer Merkur	0.00	3.00	3.00	0.70	0.99	1.69	-1.31
Hallertauer Mittelfrüher	1.32	599.34	600.66	27.72	598.65	626.37	25.71
Hallertauer Taurus	0.50	115.84	116.34	0.00	88.97	88.97	-27.37
Hallertauer Tradition	1.58	2,459.47	2,461.05	0.00	2,017.04	2,017.04	-444.01
Herkules	427.43	7,489.52	7,916.95	178.94	7,669.23	7,848.17	-68.78
Hersbrucker Pure	8.15	1.71	9.86	0.00	4.94	4.94	-4.92
Hersbrucker Spät	1.11	773.89	775.00	43.20	743.98	787.18	12.18
Huell Melon	1.36	47.53	48.89	23.05	48.51	71.56	22.67
Mandarina Bavaria	1.38	159.00	160.38	0.63	115.07	115.70	-44.68
Northern Brewer	1.20	173.76	174.96	3.06	163.90	166.96	-8.00
Nugget	1.94	89.53	91.47	0.93	78.36	79.29	-12.18
Opal	0.00	122.21	122.21	0.00	112.18	112.18	-10.03
Perle	1.63	2,859.03	2,860.66	9.51	2,333.69	2,343.20	-517.46
Polaris	28.01	560.30	588.31	15.99	560.48	576.47	-11.84
Record	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.52	0.52	-0.48
Saazer	0.00	153.56	153.56	4.77	154.19	158.96	5.40
Saphir	0.00	292.09	292.09	12.18	265.58	277.76	-14.33
Smaragd	0.02	56.73	56.75	0.96	51.53	52.49	-4.26
Spalter	0.00	100.30	100.30	0.38	87.14	87.52	-12.78
Spalter Select	0.00	498.94	498.94	13.47	475.65	489.12	-9.82
Tango	25.60	62.90	88.50	3.06	69.86	72.92	-15.58
Tettnanger	0.71	631.63	632.34	9.10	610.90	620.00	-12.34
Titan	220.63	101.43	322.06	204.43	355.45	559.88	237.82
Other	26.40	187.49	213.89	12.73	185.16	197.89	-16.00
Total			**20,288.52**			**18,962.51**	-1,326.01
Farms			1.009			965	-44
Area per farm			20.11			19.65	-0.46

Source: Verband Deutscher Hopfenpflanzer e.V., 2025

World hop areas & world hop production

Area development Germany & USA in hectares (ha)



Source: IHGC-Economic Commission Statistical Report, July 2025

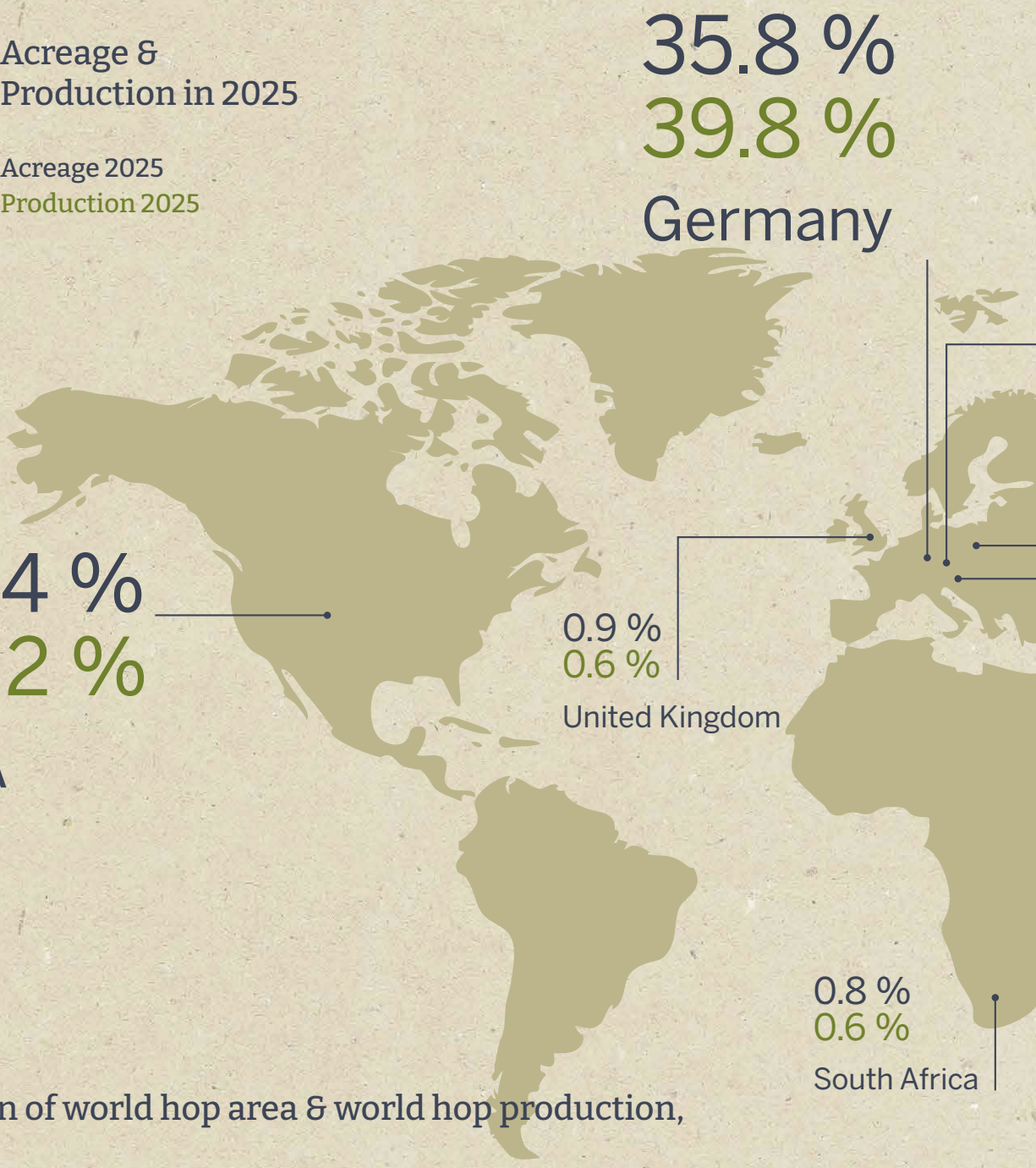
World hop area in hectares (ha)



Source: IHGC-Economic Commission Statistical Report, July 2025

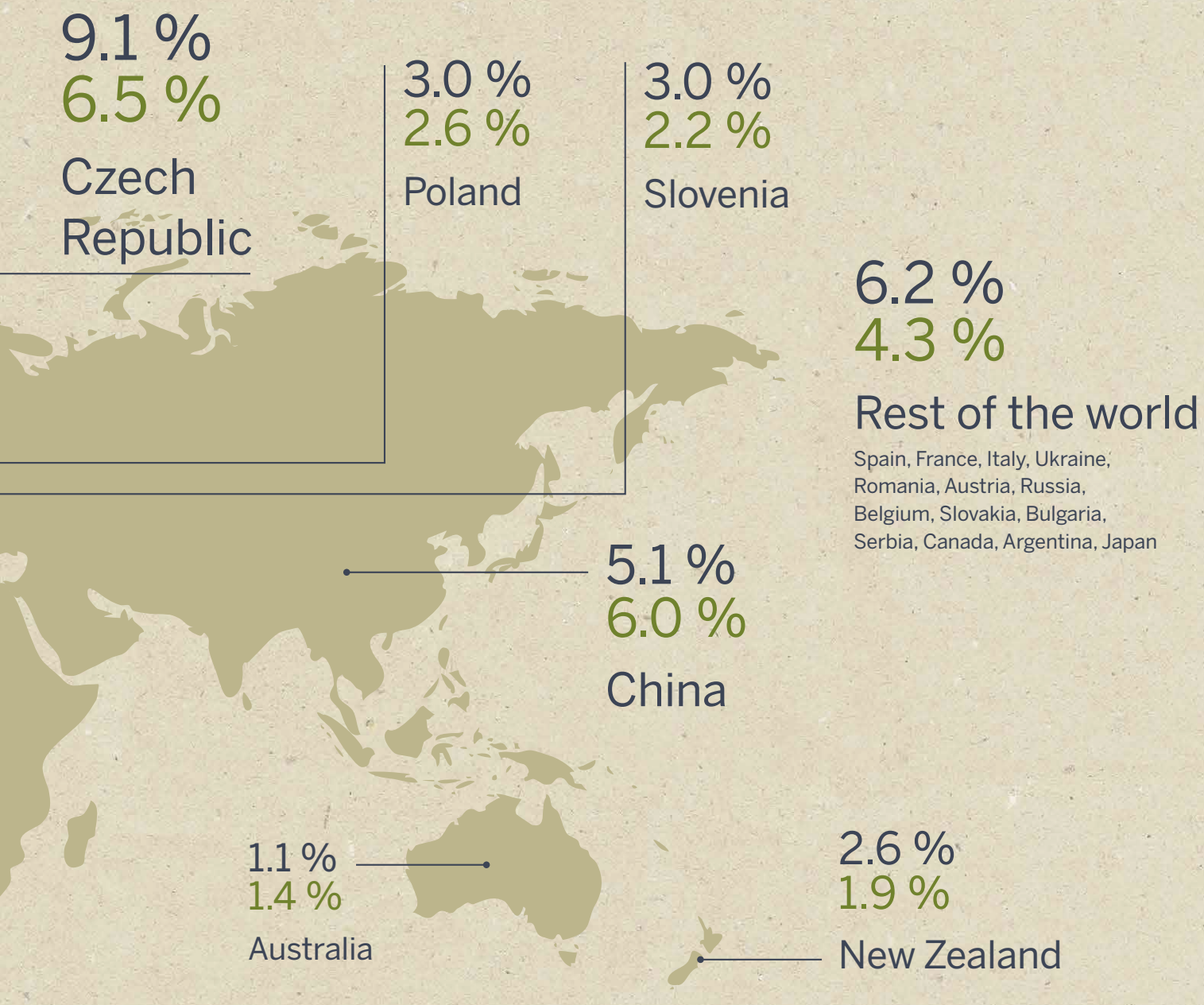
World Hop Acreage & World Hop Production in 2025

- World Hop Acreage 2025
- World Hop Production 2025



Comparison of world hop area & world hop production, 2024–2025

	Hop acreage in hectares (ha)		*Difference*	*Hop production in tons (t)*		*Difference*
	2024	*2025*	*24/25*	*2024*	*2025*	*24/25*
Germany	20,289	18,962	-1,327	46,497	43,141	-3,356
Czech Republic	4,845	4,812	-33	6,494	6,995	501
Poland	1,571	1,581	10	2,953	2,770	-183
Slovenia	1,644	1,603	-41	2,245	2,345	100
United Kingdom	536	478	-58	776	651	-125
Spain	573	505	-68	963	861	-102
France	725	750	25	960	853	-107
Italy	20	20	0	25	25	0
Ukraine	150	150	0	158	158	0
Romania	280	280	0	208	200	-8
Austria	266	270	4	330	478	148
Russia	305	385	80	400	435	35
Belgium	177	167	-10	266	246	-20



Source: IHGC-Economic Commission Statistical Report, July 2025

	Hop acreage in hectares (ha)		*Difference*	*Hop production in tons (t)*		*Difference*
	2024	*2025*	*24/25*	*2024*	*2025*	*24/25*
Slovakia	38	38	0	44	24	-20
Bulgaria	42	42	0	56	58	2
Serbia	12	12	0	24	24	0
USA	18,128	17,123	-1,005	39,495	37,098	-2,397
Canada	350	350	0	525	525	0
Brazil	53	53	0	180	180	0
Argentina	178	178	0	360	380	20
Australia	758	580	-178	1,508	1,500	-8
New Zealand	1,400	1,400	0	2,030	2,030	0
China	2,700	2,700	0	6,500	6,500	0
Japan	78	78	0	160	160	0
South Africa	404	404	0	682	682	0
Total	**55,522**	**52,921**	**-2,601**	**113,839**	**108,319**	**-5,520**

Development of the global hop market

Global Market: Hop Harvest Volumes in Tons (t)



Source: Verband Deutscher Hopfenpflanzer e.V., 2025

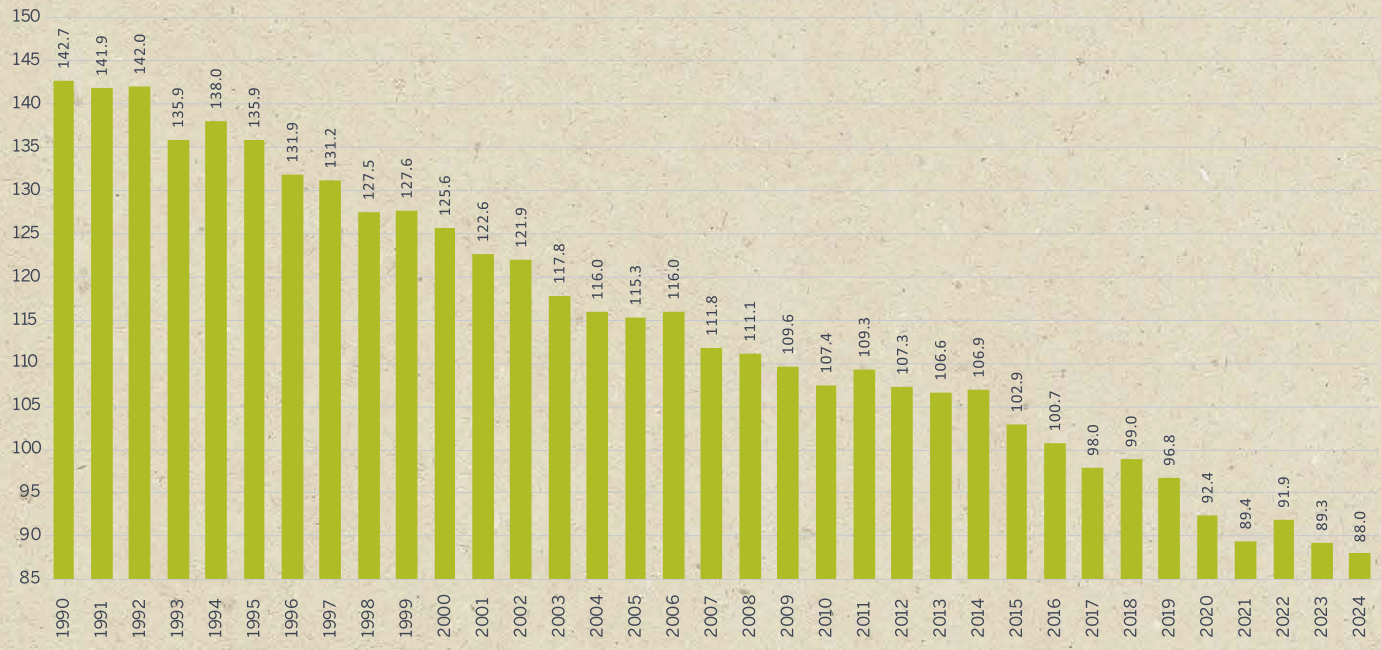
Global Market: Hop Alpha Acid Production in Tons (t)



Source: Verband Deutscher Hopfenpflanzer e.V., 2025

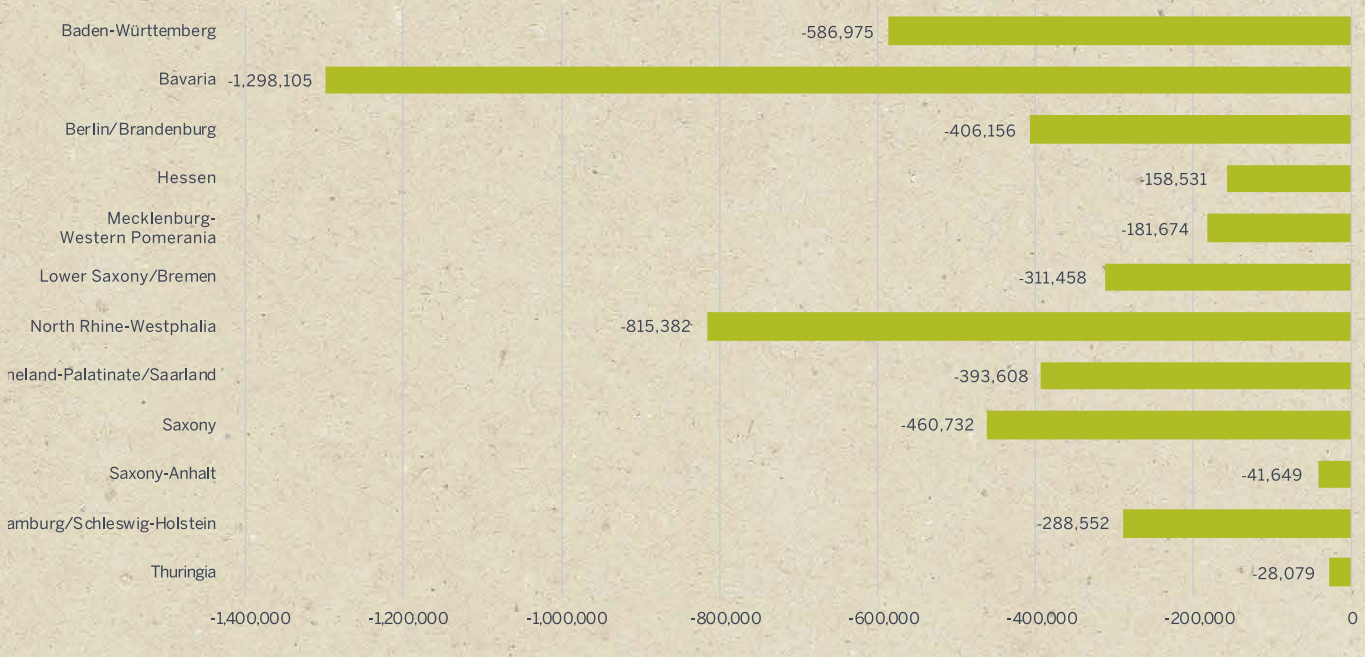
Development of the German beer market

Trend in beer consumption per capita in Germany (l)



Source: Bayerischer Brauerbund e.V. - Bier 2025

Change in total beer sales in 2025 compared to 2024 (in hl)*



* Excluding non-alcoholic beer and malt beverages

Source: Bayerischer Brauerbund e.V. - Bier 2025

We would like to thank all our business partners
for the good and trusting cooperation!

„Hopfen und Malz – Gott erhalt‘s“

IGN Promotional Video

To check out our IGN image film, simply scan
the QR code below with your smart phone:

Published by:
IGN Qualitätshopfen GmbH
Geisenfelder Str. 4
85283 Niederlauterbach

Tel.: 08442 / 96 203 - 0
Fax: 08442 / 96 203 - 20
info@ign-hopfen.de

April 2026





www.ign-hopfen.de