

An Overview of Small-Scale Commercial Hops Production in Virginia

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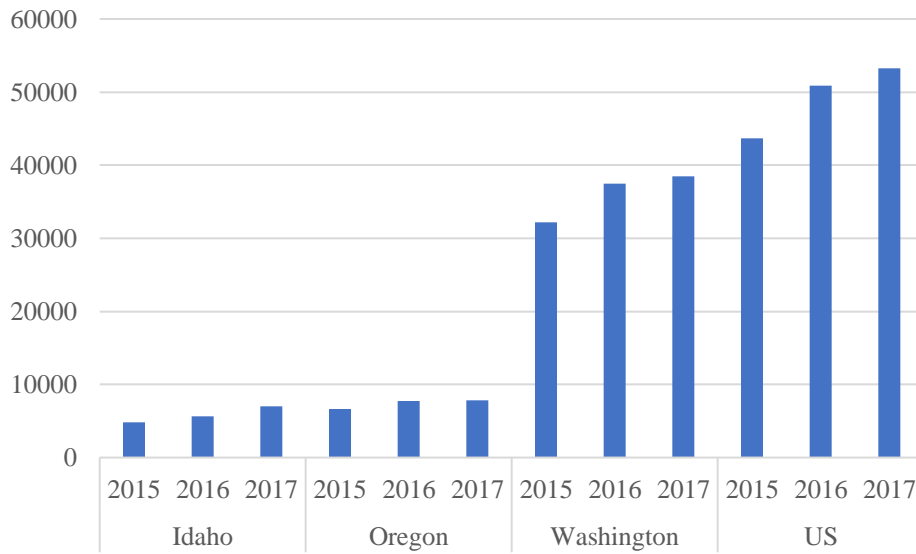
Virginia-grown hop varieties are USDA-developed, public-domain varieties. Southeastern hops are more susceptible to downy mildew and other fungal diseases, given shorter daylight spans and increased heat and humidity. Based on 31 responses to an annual producer survey, Seigle and Scoggins (2017) reported that Virginia acreage ranged from 10–22 acres. Virginia has a high number of craft breweries, motivated by a growing interest in craft beer. Direct marketing is an opportunity to add value through personalized service and strong buyer relationships. Given the large capital investment in a slow-growing perennial crop and marketing expenses, producers are encouraged to use planning tools to better identify and manage risk exposure. [User Notes for Small-Scale Virginia Commercial Hops Production Enterprise Budgets](#) are available to accompany Virginia hops [enterprise budgets](#).

Washington state accounts for the majority of U.S. acres harvested (Figures 1 and 2) and command the highest prices (Figure 3). Overall, U.S. yields per acre (Figure 4) have increased.

Keywords: alternative enterprise, enterprise budgets, hops production, small scale, Southeastern specialty crops, Virginia

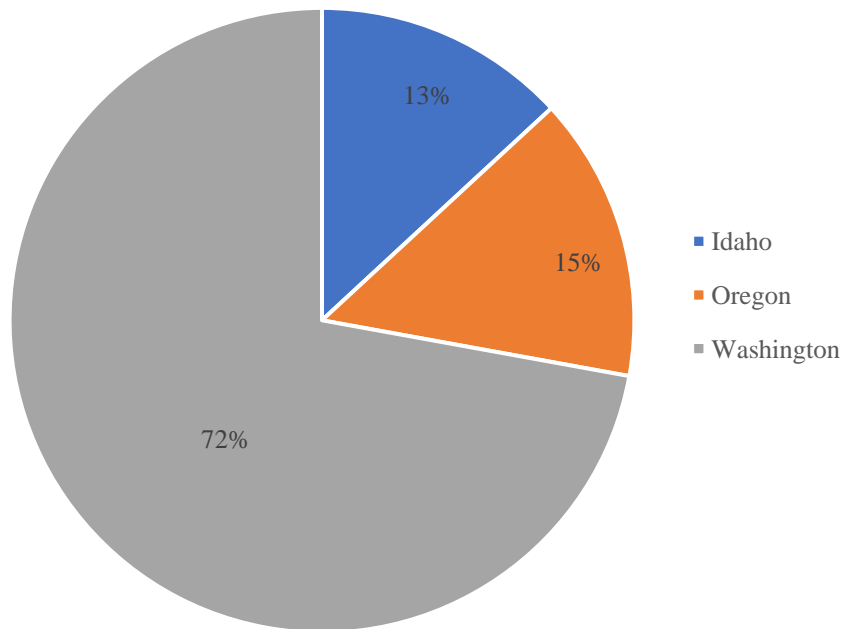
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Figure 1. U.S. Hops Harvested (acres) by State, 2015–2017



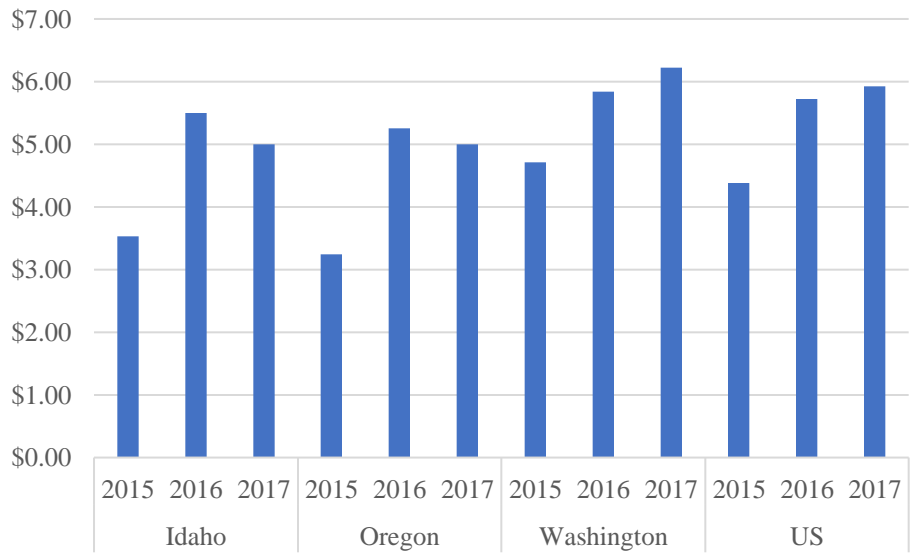
Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture (2017).

Figure 2. Share of U.S. Hops Harvested Acreage by State, 2017



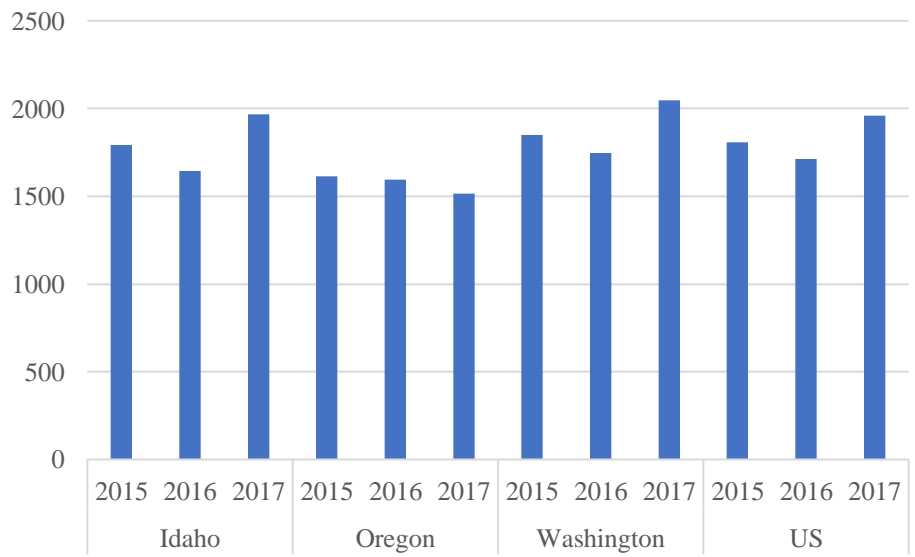
Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture (2017).

Figure 3. U.S. Hops Prices (\$/lb) by State, 2015–2017



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture (2017).

Figure 4. U.S. Hops Average Yield (lb/acre) by State, 2015–2017



Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture (2017).

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