

Happy New Year – Here's to a great 2018!

We're going to start off the new year with the announcement that Dr. John Henning, USDA hop breeder located at Oregon State University, is planning to release a new public hop variety in early 2018. Accession #USDA 2000009-033 will be called "Triumph", and we will triumph with its release! Triumph is the progeny of a cross made in 2000 – it was part of a series of crosses John made that were focused on higher (but not super high) alpha hops with enhanced resistance to Downy Mildew. The pedigree is Nugget x 21110M. Nugget, released in 1982 from the USDA program in Oregon, quickly became a widely planted variety, although it's acreage has been declining in recent years. The male parent 21110M has both Bullion and a male line (64035M) developed by Dr. Zattler (Germany) in its lineage. USDA 64035M arose as a selection from Hallertauer Mittelfrüh possessing resistance to downy mildew, while Bullion (released in 1919 in England) was frequently described as the 'English hop with American aromas'. 21110M was selected as the male parent due to its tolerance to Downy Mildew and high levels of alpha acid and oils in lupulin glands. John told us that part of the name 'Triumph' stems from it's multi-functionality as both a lager and ale hop, and the fact that John loves Triumph motorcycles.

Triumph has gained interest due to its overall good functionality both in the field and at the brewery. In the field, it has improved agronomics (compared to Nugget) with tolerance to Downy and Powdery Mildew. The flowers are evenly distributed, it picks well, and no problems have been observed during harvest. It's harvest window is similar to Nugget, with slightly enhanced yields. Test plots of Triumph have been grown in Oregon, Washington and recently Idaho where it seems to have an early harvest window.

Doug Weathers at Sodbuster Farms (Oregon) has a 1.8-acre plot of Triumph. Doug commented that it's a good producer, it displayed some downy mildew early that was controllable, and that it was fairly resistant to powdery mildew. Triumph is a lighter green color than some varieties, and a good producer with great bloom set. He noted that the cone weight was light, but the overall yield was good and an improvement over Nugget. The analysis from his 2017 crop is as follows: Oil Content: 1.9%, Alpha: 12.4%, Beta: 3.8%, HSI: .258

Doug also mentioned he felt the variety had unique stone fruit/peachy/juicy fruit aromas as mature aromas in the bale. Paul Fobert of Heritage Hop Farms (Oregon) has 45 hills of Triumph. His comments were similar to Doug's in that Triumph is a vigorous grower, is mildly susceptible to the mildews but that it's an improvement over Nugget. Their harvest date was early September and harvest yield calculations also indicate that Triumph is an improvement over Nugget.

In Tom Shellhammer's single hop brewing trials of the 2013 hop harvest Triumph was identified as one of the standout beers (in the ranking results of all participants – HRC and HGA – Triumph ranked #1). The OSU panel's aroma description of the lager produced with Triumph was Melon, Citrus, Orange peel, and Pine – not tropical, sweaty sulfury fruit.

Sierra Nevada, and a number of craft brewers, have purchased Triumph from the 2017 harvest. Tom Nielsen of Sierra Nevada commented it has a fruity and somewhat bubblegum aroma while their single-hopped brewing trials produced Tettang-like qualities. Sierra Nevada is producing an Experimental Hop Variety 4-Pack that will include a Pilsner that was brewed using Triumph and Steiner 04190 hops. This new Experimental Hop Variety 4-Pack will be released just in time for the HRC Winter Meeting/HGA Conference, and Sierra Nevada is generously providing some for us to try at the meeting.

HRC Events – The Hop Research Council Winter meeting is being held January 23 and 24, 2018. Bryan and Judy are both looking forward to meeting in person the many HRC members who we have only spoken to on the phone or via e-mails. Please be sure to introduce yourselves to us at the convention!

If you have any suggestions for content for our monthly newsletter, please contact your Co-Technical Directors, Bryan and Judy Thoet (bryan@bjagriculturalconsulting.com) (judith@bjagriculturalconsulting.com) (503) 400-9147
