

# HOP REPORT No. 1

## SAAZ GROWING REGION

April 2024

### Precipitation and temperatures (\*):

|                     | 1.4. – 30.4.2024 | 1.4. – 30.4.2023 | 30-year average<br>(April) |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Average temperature | 10,5°C           | 7,2°C            | 9,4°C                      |
| Precipitation       | 27,0 mm          | 40,6 mm          | 26,7 mm                    |

(\*)We use meteorological data from our meteorological station in Destnice near Saaz.

30-years average (1991–2020) according to Czech Hydrometeorological Institute is being used as long-term average.

|                                |           |         |
|--------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Minimum temperature in April   | 23.4.2024 | -6,2 °C |
| Maximum temperature in April   | 30.4.2024 | 28,1 °C |
| Maximum precipitation in April | 10.4.2024 | 14,4 mm |

### Comments:

**Winter season 2023/2024** was warmer than average with exceptionally abundant rainfall. In terms of temperature, it was actually the second warmest winter, and in terms of precipitation, the most abundant winter in comparison with a long term average. These conditions were a result of extremely warm February, when the average temperature reached +6,3°C (the long term average temperature is only +0,8°C), as well as above average precipitation in December and February. We registered the first snowfall in late November, and there was snow cover in the hop gardens since 24<sup>th</sup> of November as well. However the first decade of December brought an increase in temperatures and just before Christmas, we registered considerable rain precipitation. It took until second decade of January until next snow cover came again. During February the total precipitation was 40 mm, which is almost 3x more than the long term average.



**March** was extremely warm, it was actually the warmest March since 1961, with average temperature almost 3°C higher than long term average. In the same time, it was also very dry, the total precipitation was only 6,6 mm of water, which represents a quarter of the normal amount. First field works in the hop gardens also happened during March – fertilizing and harrowing. Cutting of root stocks started in last week of March, just before Easter Holiday, the first varieties that received this procedure were Saaz Special and Sládek, followed by Saaz.



**April** could be described as two absolutely opposite halves. The first half was by far the warmest period of April in the history of temperature records, when the average daytime temperatures reached 13,5°C, and between 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of April the daytime temperatures even exceeded an unbelievable 25°C. On the contrary, the second half was characterized by temperatures even below freezing point (from 18<sup>th</sup> until 26<sup>th</sup> of April). Precipitation during April was overall below average when the total precipitation reached only 67% of the long term average, while more than 14,4 mm fell during one single day on 10<sup>th</sup> of April.

Root stock cutting continued during April and was concluded at most hop gardens by 25<sup>th</sup> of April. Simultaneously with this procedure the stringing from the platforms happened as well, followed by stabbing hop wire to individual plants. Some hop gardens also received a preventive spraying against Peronospora.



On 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 2024 the Central Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture (ÚKZÚZ) released the current hop acreage in Czech Republic, which is 4.851,8 hectares. Compared to 2023, the total acreage dropped by 23 hectares. The total acreage of Saaz variety is currently 3.987 hectares, which is 76 hectares less than last year.

| variety      | acreage    |
|--------------|------------|
| Saaz         | 3.987,0 ha |
| Sladek       | 449,6 ha   |
| Premiant     | 200,5 ha   |
| Agnus        | 74,8 ha    |
| Saaz Special | 41,2 ha    |
| Saaz Late    | 32,1 ha    |
| Kazbek       | 23,7 ha    |
| others       | 42,9 ha    |
| total        | 4.851,8 ha |