

# British Hop Industry & Growing English Hops

By Tom Spilsbury Vice Chair of British Hop Association

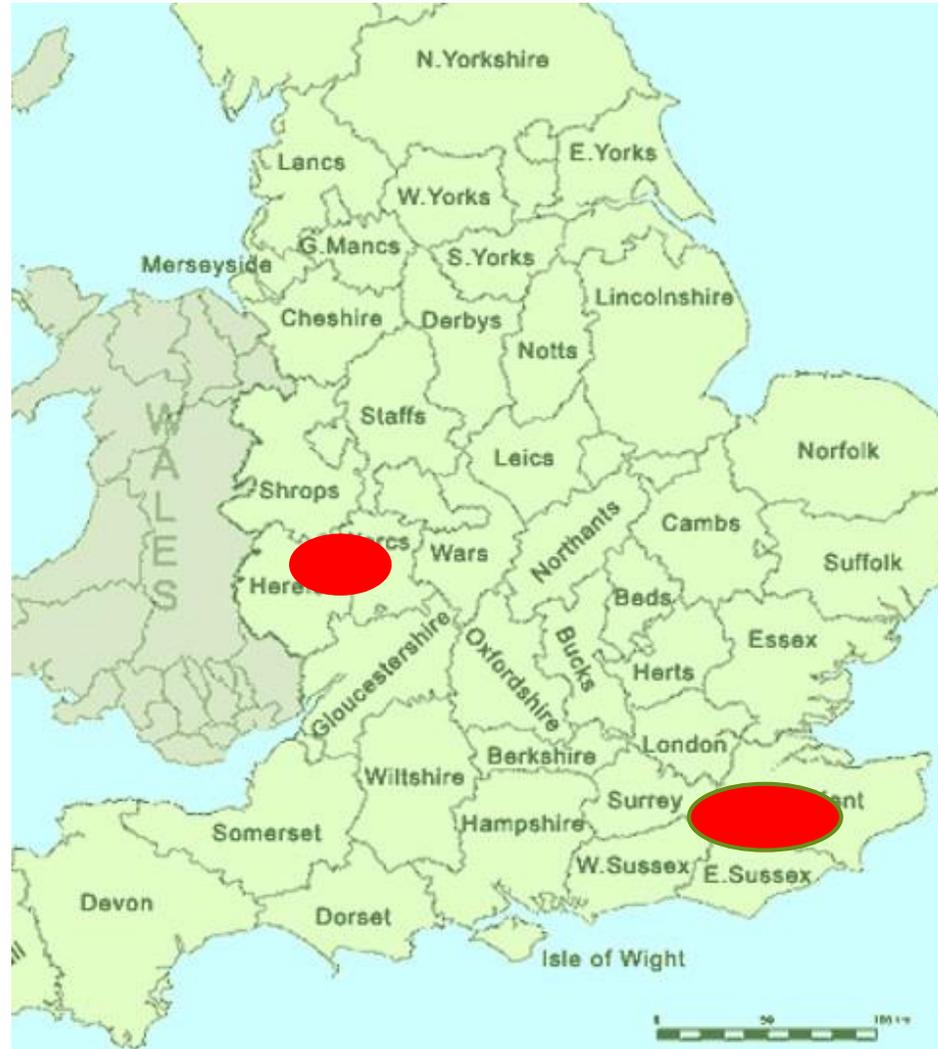
# British Hop Association

- Formed in 1996 to create a co-ordinated approach for the industry and in particular the research and development of new hop varieties through its subsidiary Wye Hops
- Wye Hops-Headed by Ali Capper and Dr Peter Darby
  - 1998 - 13 commercial varieties
  - Today - 31 commercial varieties
- BHA represented by two directors from each producer group
  - English Hops Limited
  - Hawkbrand Limited
  - Wealden Limited
- BHA represents the hop industry to UK government, the EU and international hop committees

# Growing Area

50 Growers

- 55% grown in the South East
- 45% grown in the West Midland



# Selling English Hops

- Merchants
  - Steiner Hops
  - Barth Haas
  - Charles faram
  - Lupofresh
- Majority sold through producer group to Merchant
- Growing volume sold from grower group to brewery
- Small amount sold direct grower to brewery

# Growing Hops in England Wirework

Vast majority on tall wirework

- 12-18ft tall
- 6-12ft row space
- 3-6ft plant space

Hop Poles

- Creosoted slow grown soft wood from Scandinavia
- Farm grown chestnut

On our farm

- 8/9ft row space. 4ft plant space, 16.5ft tall wirework
- This gives 1366 plants per acre
- 20% of English Hops are grown on dwarf/ low trellis wirework
- Apologies I have limited knowledge on this!



## Stringing

- Coconut coir
- String from now until the second week in April

## Training

- Mid April - end of May
- 2-3 up each string, variety dependant



# Diseases

## Verticillium Wilt

- Soil borne fungus - spread via soil/cultivation
  - Kills hops
  - Susceptible - fuggle
  - Tolerant - progress
  - Resistant - target

## Downy Mildew

## Powdery Mildew

9-12 spray rounds per season

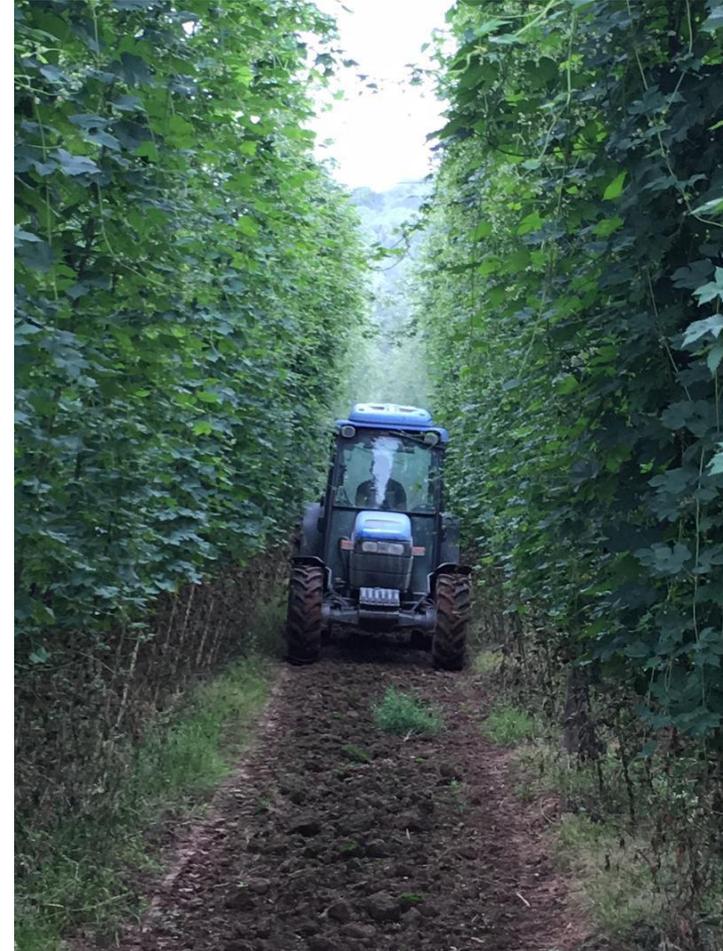
Very limited amount of sprays

EU-Brexit - potentiality very problematic for spray legislation



# Pests

- Hop Damson Aphid
- Two spotted red spider mite
- Slugs
- Growing number of pests due to phasing out of organophosphorus and pyrethroid insecticides
  - Caterpillars
  - Thrips



# Harvest

- Last week of August and through September for 3/4 weeks
- 75% Bruff hop machines
- 25% various other machines- Alleys, Dauenhauer
- An increasing number of Wulf machines
- Mainly semi-automated bine pulling in the yard



Any Questions?

