

Cultivation guide of

Hop-plants



Botany:

Hop, botanically humulus lupulus, family Cannabáceae, have their origin in Eurasia and are closely related to hemp plants.

It's important to know that there are just male and female plants. The plants you get are all female and produce the more attractive blossom, the umbels.

Hop is a perennial herb, reduced to the rootstock during wintertime.



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# Climbing help:

Hop is a climber, growing up very fast, winding to the right and needing a climbing assistance as wire, a wooden bar or similar things. Think about the wind while installing the climbing help!

Hop needs at least 4-5m climbing possibility. For the dwarf variety 2m are possible.



#### Location:

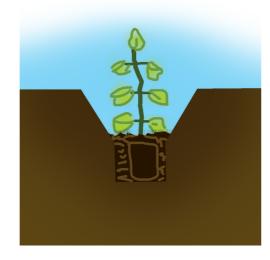
The right location for hop is very important, because it prevents diseases and pests. A very good location for example is a spongy deep soil on the south-west or south-east side of a building. Hop needs a lot of energy during the growing period from May to July. Soil with a higher content of clay will help you to feed the hop plant. It's a good idea to avoid windy places.

### Planting:

Please plant the young hops about 4 cm deep. The soil should be light and loose.

Please think about that the spots even could grow in underground for a longer distance. You can avoid problems when you cut the soil around the rootstock by a spade at the beginning of the growing-season.

Depending on your use of hops you can plant 2 plants / m for building up blinds or in a distance of 1-1,5 m to get solitaires.



## Fertilizing:

The fertilization can be done similar to other plants: regular with watering. Because of the strong growth of hop it needs on and after April nutritive substance, preferably well balanced in N and K2O. You can use a concentration of 0.2-0.4%, once or twice per week. The consumption grows up with the plant until July. Of course you also can use organic fertilizer!



### Cultivation hints:

Hop is building up a wooden, absolutely hardy stock in the soil. Young shoots are growing out of this stock every year on and after April. If you want a solitaire you have to cut most of the shoots except about three of them. If you don't cut the shoots, you can make a kind of hedge. Therefore you need about 2-3 plants/meter.

- If you want to cultivate hops in big pots (>= 20cm) please use our dwarf variety.
- The strong growing hops are difficult to feed.
- The roots should be in equal humid conditions.
- It would be the best to use high quality soil specialized for big pots.
- Remember that you need a climbing assistance even you cultivate the hops in big pots!

### Pests and diseases:

Possible problems during cultivation are pests like Aphids or Red Spider as you know it from beans.

Diseases just like Pseudoperonospora humuli or Sphaerotheca humuli (powdery meldew) are also possible to incidence. The most promising measures to take are preventive. That means: "If hop feels well, it will be strong against pests and diseases!"

If necessary you also can use pesticides and fungicides just like in beans or roses, but try it first!



#### Harvest:

Harvesting time normally starts with September. If you divide the umbel you can see an intensively smelling yellowish powder. You can harvest the umbels and dry them slowly. Please avoid sunlight, otherwise the umbels will turn to brown.

If you want to use hops for decoration it makes sense to use bigger parts of the plant and to remove the leaves.

#### Dormancy

For the wintertime it's useful to cut the plants down to the rootstock as soon as all the spots are dry and dead. You can cover the rootstock by leaves or similar to protect the buds for sunlight.

In April this protection should be removed. If some buds already have started to grow you can harvest them and eat them as a vegetable (similar to asparagus in miniature).



#### Hint for home-brewers:

To use the umbels for brewing it's important to get virgin umbels. Please remove male hops around your hops to avoid fertilization.

Characteristics of hops like resistances, growing and ingredients will be lost in seeds and only can be conserved in vegetative propagation.