

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- New Logo Again
- New Website
- New Courses
- New Equipment
- Spring is here

Hop Production 201 Course Now Open

For those of you who have taken the Introduction to Small Scale Hops Production workshop we are now offering our first 201-level course: Technical Hop Production. The workshop will be held on April 24th, 2010 at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison, WI.

There is only so much information we can cover during the introductory session. The 201 course will cover the technical aspects of production and farm processing, such as:

- Soil nutrient calculation, application, and management
- Irrigation calculations and scheduling

- Pest identification and control options
- Oast design and construction



2009's harvest

- Moisture calculation problem sets
- Weed control strategies

Who should attend? Anyone who has taken the 101 workshop and has hops in the ground or

will this season. Most production and quality issues we've seen over the past season revolve around either poor nutrient and irrigation schedules and/or improper oasting and moisture calculations.

Registration is currently open on our website, www.gorstvalleyhops.com

Workshops fill up quickly so don't wait! If you'd like to take your production to the next level of quality, register now!!!

Another Logo? Jeez!!!

Yeah, yeah...another logo. Get over it already! Actually, logo creation should not be taken lightly. It is, after all, the snapshot identity of your operation. That's why we've chosen to reach out to professionals to give us a

hand in designing a logo and



website that matches our personality and vision. This is IT! I promise! At least for now...

Tell us what you think and what we should put it on...hats? Shirts? Glasses?

Spring is Here!



Early bine shoots emerging

Believe it or not Spring is knocking on the door for 2010! For those of you who are currently growing that means hops will be popping before you know it. We encourage you to start scouting your fields now, looking for the first buds poking through the mulch.

For those of you who plan to get started this year, now is the time to stake out the field and get it just right before any soil starts flying. Take your

time and do it right. Square the plantation corners, stake each pole location, mark out the irrigation path, etc.

If you haven't figured this out already, hops are quite frost hardy. It's not uncommon for bines to be several inches long before the danger of heavy frost is past. No worries though as bines will stop growing if it gets too cold and shoot up during warm days.

But what about rhizome pruning? Unless your plants are a

minimum of 4 years old you shouldn't be cutting any rootstock. For those older plants, use a hand mattock or small trowel and gently dig an 18-inch diameter circle around the crown approximately 3 inches deep. You will find lots of roots (pencil size) and some rhizomes (finger size or thicker). Choose 1-2 per plant, making sure each have at least 2 buds. Using sharp shears or loppers, cut off the sections and transplant to your new area.

"No one has done this on this scale before so we're learning as we go. Last season was proof of concept, this season is for field testing our prototypes"

Hey, What's Up with the Picker?

As many of you know, GVH is fabricating a small scale mechanical bine picker, cone/leaf sorter, and semi-permanent oast. But guess what? It takes time...lots of time. Will this equipment be for sale this year? No but we'd like to see the next generation equipment in select fields in 2011.

But the good news is we plan to publish our designs on our

website for the more industrial growers to build their own. We believe that crowdsourcing our designs will result in new, more efficient and innovative designs.

Keep in mind that there is nothing turn-key about hop production. As Dan (GVH engineer) said, "No one has done this on this scale before so we're learning as we go.

Last season was proof of concept, this season is for field testing our prototypes." or as I typically say, "Let me wreck my hops first..."

Stay tuned for more news around our equipment. Up next on the table is a small field baler and a small-scale boom sprayer.

GVH Website, Rebooted

Antique stilt walkers stringing twine



That old website just had to go. It served us well but didn't convey information as neatly as it should have...and besides the new site looks much cooler!

We worked with Kella Designs in Madison, WI and we couldn't be

happier. They worked with us every step, listened to your needs and stepped in when we were stuck.

Look for more and more information as we start posting all the docs, calculators, data, pictures, videos, we've been accumulating over the years. Look for video courses avail-

able in the coming months. Take some or all of our courses on-line, at your pace, in your underwear!

Let us know what you'd like more info on and we'll see what we can do...

www.gorstvalleyhops.com