

Brand	Sweetener	Grade	Notes
Abita	PCS	A	not overly sweet; mellow, clean, herbaceous character, with touch of sarsaparilla; medium carbonation; slight body; good drinking root beer
Bulldog	PCS & honey	A	light carbonation, with quickly dissipating head; sweet, smooth, and full-bodied; heavy vanilla, noticeable honey; borderline dessert/drinking root beer
Americana	PCS	A-	medium carbonation, with little head; very creamy; lots of vanilla; very fragrant; well-rounded "rootiness"; good drinking root beer
Jackson Hole Soda Co. Snake River Sarsaparilla	PCS	A-	medium carbonation; moderately sweet; spicy; fairly creamy
Henry Weinhard's	HFCS & honey	B+	heavy carbonation and tall head; sweet, with honey noticeable but not too strong; not very aromatic; good dessert soda; not bad for everyday drinking
Berghoff	PCS	B+	very light carbonation and no head to speak of; on the sweet side; good traditional taste; reminiscent of grandpa's homemade root beer
Boylan	PCS	B+	heavy carbonation and foamy head; very creamy; fruitiness with caramel undertones; dessert-like; good for what it is, but not a drinking root beer for me
Boylan's Birch Beer	PCS	B+	medium carbonation; herby, aromatic quality (with some wintergreen); good drinking
Boylan's Creamy Red Birch Beer	PCS	B+	medium carbonation; creamy, with heavy vanilla; on the sweet side
Capt'n Eli's	PCS	B+	caramel sweetness; noticeable vanilla flavor; builds huge head; good for drinking, great for a float.
Dad's (Orca)	and/or	B	medium carbonation, with little head; less sweet than the other Dad's and w/o the strong wintergreen note; very direct, traditional taste
IBC	and/or	B	little bite; not overly sweet; slight body; medium carbonation; very traditional taste
Sioux City Sarsaparilla	and/or	B	heavy carbonation; creamy, but a touch bitter; vanilla and anise taste; grassy aftertaste
Maine Root	evaporated cane juice	B	medium carbonation and head; little creaminess; not too sweet; balanced spiciness with clove note; pretty good drinking root beer
Gale's	HFCS	B	medium carbonation, with little head; sweet and spicy, with effective balance of ginger, cinnamon, and vanilla; good dessert root beer
Hank's	HFCS	B	heavy carbonation with foamy, quickly dissipating head; pretty conventional taste, but on the sweet side and with more wintergreen; poor aftertaste
Jackson Hole Soda Co. Buckin' Root Beer	PCS	B	low carbonation, with no head; fairly sweet and creamy; anise hits first, chased by strong cinnamon flavor
A&W	and/or	B-	heavy carbonation, with tall but quickly dissipating head; creamy and sweet; so connected with memory that it's hard to judge dispassionately

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Baumeister	and/or	B-	light carbonation and almost no head; slight body; very traditional taste; a little on the sweet side; mildly agreeable, but nothing distinctive
Natural Brew	evaporated cane juice	B-	light carbonation, with little head; creamy, with prominent vanilla and sarsaparilla; untraditional, but interesting flavor
Stewart's	HFCS	B-	highly carbonated; caramelly sweetness leaves mild aftertaste; good for a float, but possibly too sweet for straight drinking
Sprecher	HFCS & honey	B-	light carbonation, with quickly dissipating head; almost too sweet; apart from noticeable honey component, fairly traditional flavor
AJ Stephans	PCS	B-	heavy carbonation, but little head; slight bitterness; mint/wintergreen note; fairly traditional flavor profile
Dairy-ette Root Beer	PCS	B-	light carbonation, with almost no head; not very sweet; generic root beer flavor; just like home-made (with all the limitations associated with that)
Fitz's	PCS	B-	little carbonation and no head; caramelly sweetness; creamy; light anise and wintergreen touches (this bottle might have been a dud)
Sea Dog	PCS	B-	light carbonation, with tall head; sweet, but not dessert; traditional flavor, with anise note; goes flat quickly; slight wintergreen aftertaste
Dad's (Real Soda)	Sugar	B-	well carbonated, but little head; fairly sweet; mostly traditional taste, but with strong wintergreen flavor
Thomas Kemper	HFCS & honey	C+	medium carbonation, with quickly dissipating head; flat but traditional flavor; slight soapy/medicinal aftertaste
Health Valley (Old-fashioned Root Beer)	HFCS & molasses	C+	light carbonation, with little head; molasses sweetness with a bit of anise flavor; otherwise flat and conventional
Health Valley (Sarsaparilla Root Beer)	HFCS & molasses	C+	medium carbonation, with little head; strong anise flavor and Pepto-Bismol mintiness
Rat Bastard	HFCS & molasses	C+	medium carbonation, with little head; very sweet; surprisingly traditional flavor profile, with murky wintergreen aftertaste
A.J. Stephans Birch Beer	PCS	C+	heavily carbonated (swarms of tiny bubbles); fairly sweet; thin-tasting
Dr. Brown's	and/or	C	heavy carbonation, with tall but quickly dissipating head; fairly sweet, with bitter aftertaste and chalkiness.
Milligan's Island	and/or	C	very heavy carbonation (opening with a pop), with medium head; syrupy sweet; unpleasant aftertaste
Frostie	HFCS	C	medium heavy carbonation, with little head; not much body; thin flavor with slight bitterness
Root 66	PCS	C	light carbonation, with tall but quickly dissipating head; creamy; sugar taste (right on the edge between pleasantly caramelized and burnt) predominates

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Saint Arnold	PCS	C	syrupey sweet; noticeable licorice/anise flavor; light carbonation; not bad, but not one I'd repeat
Pirate's Keg	HFCS	C-	medium carbonation, with little head; unusual bitterness that lingers
Virgil's	PCS	C-	heavy licorice flavor; medicinal aftertaste; no saffras or sarsparilla flavor; good body; too sweet; thanks, but no thanks
X Root Beer Riot	PCS	D-	low carbonation, with no head; bitter, alkaline, back-of-the-tongue aftertaste; unpleasant aroma had me checking the expiration date
Jones (Sugar-Free)	Splenda	D-	light carbonation, with almost no head; somewhat bitter rootbeer flavor is overwhelmed by clumsy sucralose aftertaste; I want my money back