Tile Drainage in Massachusetts Cranberry Production

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Tile drainage in Massachusetts cranberry production

Carolyn DeMoranville, Peter Jeranyama, Casey Kennedy, and Nick Alverson

• Funded by Northeast SARE
• Looked at spacing: horizontal and vertical (depth)
• Looked at functionality
### Tile Drainage Study - spacing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tile Spacing, feet</th>
<th># of vegetative uprights ft(^{-2})</th>
<th># of upright with 1 berry ft(^{-2})</th>
<th># of uprights ≥ 1 berry ft(^{-2})</th>
<th>Yield (BBL)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>307</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Contrasts**

- 15 vs. 20: NS  
  - **\(p \leq 0.01\)**  
  - *\(0.01 < p < 0.05\)**  
  - *\(p \leq 0.05\)**

- 15 vs. 25: *\(p \leq 0.05\)**  
  - **\(p \leq 0.01\)**  
  - NS

- 20 vs. 25: NS

**NS** indicates non-significance.
Tile depth study

Soil tension (kPa)

- Peat 8"
- Peat 12"
- Upland 12"
Tile depth/drainage – Fruit Rot

- Depth matters but so does subsoil base.
Soil Tension and Tile Drainage Depth Effects on Cranberry Yield
Tile drain function

Ditch elevation lower at this end
Case study – the work of graduate student Nick Alverson

Depth: 18 in. sloping to 2 ft.

Width: 25 ft.
Hydrologic Inputs – inches of water

- Irrigation: 1.17 inches
- Precipitation: 1.48 inches
- Flood input: 4.10 inches
- Input from adjacent bed: 6.50 inches
Surface Water Discharge: Storms vs. Harvest Flood

Drainage rate: ~100x vol. per sec. vs. storm
August Storm Event - Flow

1.6 inches of Rain
Total Discharge from Bed vs Discharge from Tiles (cubic meters) 2014

Discharge from tiles represents approximately 42% of the flow.
Survey

• Have asked questions about your use of tiles
• Today’s survey will be used to provide the ‘end of project’ information to compare to start.
• Two more workshops in the spring – depth and installation
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