

included in this estimate. We have used no external inputs for this crop. Without counting establishment costs, this gives a return for 2005 of about \$7000/acre.

### **Assessment**

We are happy with the results thus far. We learned that black currants are well adapted to this climate and organic growing systems. We found a good wholesale market. We found a variety (Titania) that performed markedly better than the others. We will be more confident in yield projections after a few more years of experience.

### **Adoption**

We think we could market and manage about one acre with local pickers and are slowly expanding our planting. We may look at some mechanical harvesting equipment as we grow. In the future we will plant our bushes closer together (24" spacing) to create a hedge that effectively shades out weeds. We are also planning on installing the drip irrigation system that we have already bought.

### **Outreach**

Although our outreach plans changed from the initial proposal, we feel that we have connected with many farmers about the potential for black currants in this area. We put together a poster for the Northeast SARE meeting in Burlington which generated a good amount of interest. I gave a talk at the 'Young Entrepreneurs in Agriculture Conference' at UVM and highlighted the growing and marketing of our black currants. I have had several field trips of students from the Ecological Agriculture Program at UVM (around 60 students total), many who are interested in farming in the future. The replicated variety trial is a good visual for explaining on farm research set up also. Finally I have hosted individual visits from 4 different farmers interested in black currant growing and I have talked to several others about the subject. I am sure our outreach will continue over the years to come.

John Hayden  
2/14/06