

7. Our economic findings are as follows:

a) Inter-row mulching will be discontinued until we can observe the mulched sections for one more year. If sections with large numbers of uprights throw large numbers of laterals, we will reconsider our conclusion that the cost of mulching, both material and labor, are not cost effective in establishing new bogs.

b) Liquid seaweed displayed neither enhanced vine growth or runner growth. In fact, untreated sections actually performed better. Cost of liquid seaweed and delays in planting (we could only presoak $\frac{1}{2}$ of our vine at a time) confirm our decision to discontinue this practice.

c) Row planting was considered a complete success. Comparative costs, as we can best estimate are; (for $\frac{1}{2}$ A)

1) Disc Planting

a) tractor, operator and labor	\$ 200.
b) Vine- minimum 1000 lbs.	2000.
Total	<u>\$2200.</u>

2) Hand planting in rows $\frac{1}{2}$ A.

a) labor 60hrs. @ \$6/hr.	\$360.
b) vine 500lbs.	1000.
	<u>\$1360.</u>

It is also estimated that we saved 8hrs/wk. for the first 8 weeks of weeding (prior to runner growth) for an additional savings of;

8hrs. x \$6.00/hr. x 8 wks.	\$384.
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8. New ideas; Future monitoring of mulched sections to observe whether or not sections of heavy upright growth will in fact throw large numbers of laterals. Sanding of mulched sections to incorporate organic matter into soil layer while increasing sunlight reflectivity.

9. For reasons stated in Parts 5, 6 and 7, we will discontinue row mulching and use of liquid seaweed. However, we will continue to row plant, in fact, we will experiment with using less vine in future plantings. We may also use the same amount of vine/acre and close the row space to 12-15 inches rather than the 18" we used this year.

10) Other producer will have full access to this report. In short, we will tell them that mulching and liquid seaweed was of little value, but the row planting showed real promise, and we will continue to use it.

11) At the time of this mailing, copies are being sent to Dave Yarborough, John Harker, Anne Averill, Maine Cranberry Growers Association and the Mass. Cranberry Experiment Station. I may be asked to do a presentation at a future MCGA meeting.