Trial Low Trellis Hop Yard

UVM Extension Winter Hops Conference

2012

Presenter:
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Leap of Faith Farms - Williamstown, ON Canada
LOW TRELLIS

WHERE WE ARE
LOW TRELLIS

THE REASON WE CHOSE LOW TRELLIS

• AVAILABLE LABOUR – 1 PERSON CONSTRUCTION.
• SAFETY – FALLING 10 FEET BEATS 20.
• AVAILABLE EQUIPMENT (TRACTOR, LADDERS, TRUCK, etc...).
• WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE EASIER TO HARVEST.
• CHEAPER TO CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN.
# Low Trellis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Items</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Specifications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rows</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>60 feet/row 15 feet spacing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Poles</strong></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>12 feet – 9 feet exposed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Soccer Netting</strong></td>
<td>360 feet</td>
<td>8 feet high x 60 feet long</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aircraft Cable</strong></td>
<td>1500 feet</td>
<td>7x19 3/16 inch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Auger Anchors</strong></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>36 inch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hardware</strong></td>
<td>72 ‘U’, 12 AH, 12 EH</td>
<td>Standard ‘U’ clips, adjustable hooks, eye hooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extras</strong></td>
<td>1500 Zip Ties</td>
<td>Attached netting at top and bottom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LOW TRELLIS

THE COST BREAKDOWN FOR A .25 ACRE TEST YARD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Polls</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer Netting</td>
<td>$1171.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aircraft Cable</td>
<td>$367.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auger Anchors</td>
<td>$68.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardware</td>
<td>$319.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extras</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total Cost:** $2275.88 (CAN$)
LOW TRELLIS

HOP VARIETIES

• Cascade
• Mount Hood
• Nugget
• Hallertauer
• Perle
THE YIELD WAS LOW

• LOW TRELLIS?
• FIRST YEAR RHIZOMES?
• ORGANIC?
• POOR WEATHER?
• NITROGEN DEFICIENT?
• POOR IRRIGATION?

NOTE: MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS.
TIME WILL PROVIDE THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS
LOW TRELLIS

THINGS THAT DIDN’T WORK (OR DIDN’T WORK WELL)

• Clipping head flowers did not force side growth.
• Could only hand pick. No automated way.
• Forced to hand pick from netting.
• Weeding was difficult because of netting.
• Could not cut across row.
LOW TRELLIS

WILL WE KEEP WITH THE LOW TRELLIS SYSTEM?

• AT THIS POINT IN TIME – NO.
• CONVENTIONAL TRELLIS GOING FORWARD.
LOW TRELLIS

REASONS TO ABANDON THE LOW TRELLIS SYSTEM

• WE ARE THE ONLY ONES DOING IT.
• NO EXPERIENCE TO DRAW UPON.
• HARVESTING WAS MORE DIFFICULT THAN TRADITIONAL TRELLIS.
• THERE IS NO SMALL SCALE PICKER FOR A LOW TRELLIS SYSTEM.
LOW TRELLIS

THE LOW TRELLIS SYSTEM GOING FORWARD

OPTIONS:

• Keep the .25 acres, try new things and continue with testing.
• We will use the low trellis to propagate rhizomes.
• Potentially sell soccer netting.
LOW TRELLEIS

RESOURCES USED

• **EDWARD B. PAGE - HOP TRELLISING & BUDGETS 2008:**
  [http://soilcrop.colostate.edu/godin/pdf_files/Hop_Trellis_Budget.pdf](http://soilcrop.colostate.edu/godin/pdf_files/Hop_Trellis_Budget.pdf)

• **DR. JOHN HENNING – HIGH QUALITY HOP PRODUCTION, LOW-TRELLEIS SYSTEMS:**

• **UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT EXTENSION: AGRONOMIST AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT TEAM**