

Trial Low Trellis Hop Yard

UVM Extension Winter Hops Conference
2012

Presenter:

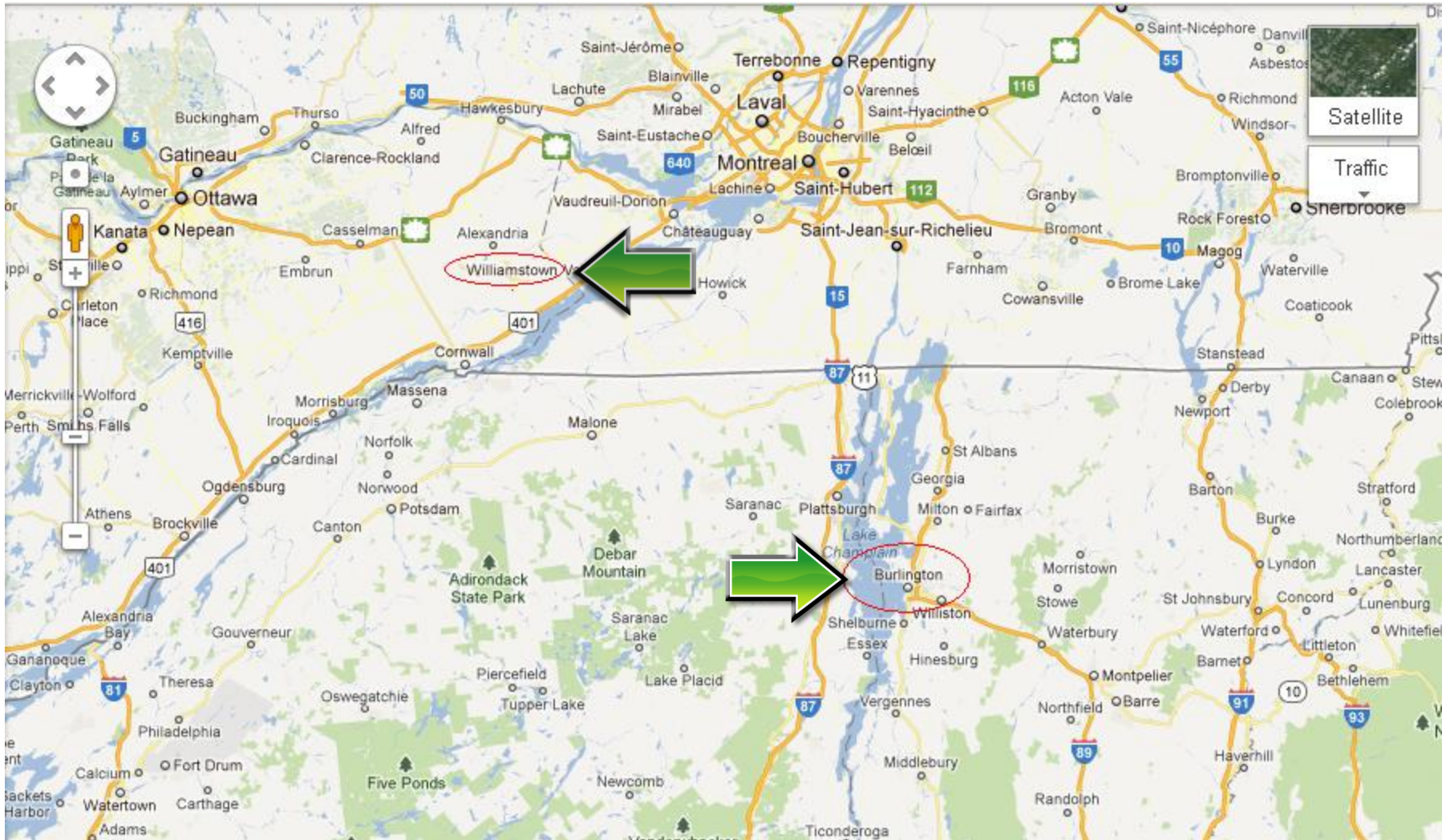
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Leap of Faith Farms - Williamstown, ON Canada



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

ITEMS	QUANTITY	SPECIFICATIONS
ROWS	6	60 FEET/ROW 15 FEET SPACING
POLES	18	12 FEET – 9 FEET Exposed
SOCCER NETTING	360 FEET	8 FEET HIGH X 60 FEET LONG
AIRCRAFT CABLE	1500 FEET	7X19 3/16 INCH
AUGER ANCHORS	12	36 INCH
HARDWARE	72 'U', 12 AH, 12 EH	STANDARD 'U' CLIPS, ADJUSTABLE HOOKS, EYE HOOKS
EXTRAS	1500 ZIP TIES	ATTACHED NETTING AT TOP AND BOTTOM



LOW TRELLIS

THE COST BREAKDOWN FOR A .25 ACRE TEST YARD

POLLS	\$200.00
SOCCER NETTING	\$1171.58
AIRCRAFT CABLE	\$367.10
AUGER ANCHORS	\$68.00
HARDWARE	\$319.20
EXTRAS	\$150.00

TOTAL COST: \$ 2275.88
(CAN\$)



LOW TRELLIS

HOP VARIETIES

- Cascade
- Mount Hood
- Nugget
- Hallertauer
- Perle



LOW TRELLIS

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



Mount Hood

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 TRELLIS

RESOURCES USED

- EDWARD B. PAGE - HOP TRELLISING & BUDGETS 2008:
http://soilcrop.colostate.edu/godin/pdf_files/Hop_Trellis_Budget.pdf
- DR. JOHN HENNING – HIGH QUALITY HOP PRODUCTION, LOW-TRELLIS SYSTEMS:
<http://www.uvm.edu/extension/cropsoil/wp-content/uploads/Henning-Low-Trellis.pdf>
- UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT EXTENSION:
AGRONOMIST AND NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT TEAM

