

Asparagus Factsheet

Boreal Agromineral (BAM) was involved in a three-year trial with the Norfolk Soil and Crop Improvement Association. The trial was on a new asparagus plantation. 2004 was the first full harvest on this 4 year old stand. The plot was set up in alternating 32-foot strips covering 9 acres. The application rate of BAM was 1300 lbs/acre per year. This spring was the third application of BAM for a total of 3900 lbs/acre. The control plot was fertilized with recommended asparagus fertility rates based on an OMAFRA approved soil test. The fertilizer was a blend of 150lbs Nitrogen, 60 lbs Phosphate and 175 lbs Potash per acre. The BAM plot received no additional fertilizer or soil amendments.



BAM Plot	Control Plot
Inputs: 1300 lbs/acre BAM	Inputs: 150 lbs/acre Nitrogen 60 lbs/acre Phosphate 175 lbs/acre Potash
Weight: 17.5 lbs	Weight: 10 lbs
Root mass produced 64 spears	Root mass produced 36 spears

June 24, 2004 – 4th Year - First Full Harvest

Harvesting of asparagus spears will continue until brix levels drop between 7 and 8%. The control strips as of June 24th measured between 7 and 8%. The Boreal Agromineral (BAM) plots brix readings all averaged between 12 and 13%. The average spear production for the district is between 2500 and 3000 lbs per acre, this year it has been closer to 2000 lbs/acre; due to a severe winter and a cool wet spring. The yield calculation for the control plots was 5242 lbs. The final production on the BAM plot was 5832 lbs per acre (> 10% increase in yield)

General Comments

The total yields for this test plot were double the district. The Norfolk plain is a coarse well-drained soil subject to acidification. The heavy use of chemical fertilizers will result in accelerating soil aging inevitably resulting in aluminum toxicity, thus overwhelming the soil system. Doug Wall has maintained exceptional fertility through the regular renewal of organic matter and liming. The high-test results are due to good soil fertility through careful management of these two critical soil requirements.