

Asparagus NaCl Study
Hart, MI (Oceana County)
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Objective:

To evaluate the effect of NaCl (sodium chloride or common salt) application on yield of harvested asparagus in an established asparagus planting.

Methods:

A planting of Jersey Giant planted in 1988 was subdivided into nine plots. Each plot received one of three treatments; no NaCl, 500 lb/Acre NaCl, or 1000 lb/Acre NaCl. Each treatment replicated three times.

Results:

Hybrid	Total Yield (Pounds / Acre)
No NaCl	1561
500 Lb. /Acre	1586
1000 Lb. /Acre NaCl	1512

2002: Twelve full picking (19 harvests)
Planted: 1988
Spacing: 12" apart in 54" rows
Depth: 8"

Notes by Robert Cain 2012

It is documented that the asparagus industry in the US significantly declined following WW2 when farmers switched from the common practice of applying rock and sea salt for weed control to herbicides. Rock salt prevented asparagus seedlings from germinating and competing with the mother plants plus suppressed competition of many other types of common weeds. The decline was caused by the destruction of root crowns by Fusarium Wilt. Asparagus is extremely tolerant to NaCl (as indicated in the above results), and production actually increased with an application of 500 lbs/acre (500 Kg/Hectare). SeaAgri believes the increase in production could have been higher if SEA-90 had been applied at 500 lbs/acre due to the additional minerals and trace elements it provides in addition to NaCl. SeaAgri has applied SEA-90 fertilizer to its asparagus beds for 10 years. Weed control is observed with no negative effects and the plants are healthy and productive. Flavor is also significantly improved.