



FACT SHEET

Cranberry Fertility Pointers for Producing Bogs in Atlantic Canada

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#1 For nitrogen management of producing bogs using a granular (NPK) fertility program we target four stages of development. These stages of development are as follows with the percentage of total recommended nitrogen in brackets: Rough-neck stage (20-25%), Mid-bloom (25-30%), Fruit set (25-30%), and Bud development (20-25%)

The total recommended nitrogen is 40 lbs/A for 'Stevens' and 30 lbs/A for other varieties. This starting rate should be adjusted accordingly based on new upright growth at hook stage of development.

#2 No nitrogen is recommended before soil temperature reaches 55 °F as adequate nitrogen for growth should be available from mineralization prior to this time.

#3 Soil amendments to correct P, K, Ca, Mg deficiencies are best done in early spring shortly after flood removal. This includes application of soil conditioners such as 0-0-22-11 (K-Mag or Sul-Po-Mag).

#4 Minor nutrient supplements are best applied as foliar amendments between bud break and hook stage of development, with the exception of boron which has been shown to have a significant yield benefit in deficient bogs when applied at early and/or mid-bloom as Calcium-Boron (CaB) applied at 2 qts/A.

#5 Fertilizer rates should be reduced if bogs have been sanded.

#6 Fertilizer rates may need to be increased if bogs have had Casoron applied in spring.

#7 Presence of adequate new upright growth (length) by hook stage of development has been significantly correlated with yield. Flowering uprights should have 1.5 to 2 inches of leafy length above flowers and fruit. The minimum total growth on the new uprights should be 2.25 inches for 'Early Black' and 'Howes', and 2.5 inches for 'Ben Lear' and 'Stevens'.

#8 The primary yield determinants are total upright density, and percent of total uprights that are the fruiting type. The average upright density for a producing bog should be about 600 uprights/sq. ft. for 'Early Black' and 400 uprights/sq. ft. for 'Howes', 'Ben Lear' and 'Stevens'. Ideally, 200 or more of these should be the flowering type. To sample upright density count all uprights in a 4" diameter circle. Total upright density should be about 50 for 'Early Black' and 35 for 'Howes', 'Ben Lear' and 'Stevens'.

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