

Bog Owner's Notes on Cranberry Industry History

Cranberry Industry Historical Information

Prior to 1960

- Irrigation by 'flash flooding' (either by gravity or pumping)
- Frost protection by 'flash flooding'
- Ditches were wide and prevalent to allow for rapid flooding
- Ditches were also used for drainage
- Flooding by gravity was desirable due to the economics of that era
- Cranberry bogs were located in 'kettle holes' where organics collected
- Flow through bogs were desirable for flooding
- Pesticides were applied by ground or aerial equipment
- Vine varieties were more tolerant of water with lower yields
- Cranberries were 'dry picked' only
- No flood water was used for harvest

1960 to 1985

- Irrigation through sprinkler system
- Frost protection through sprinkler system
- Pesticides were applied by ground or aerial equipment
- 'Upland bogs' could be constructed up gradient due to water conveyance and sprinkler systems
- Hybrid vines less tolerant of water and higher yielding were introduced
- Flow through bogs were not necessary for 'flash flooding'
- Drainage trenches with perforated pipe embedded in stone were used
- Laser leveling on machines were used in the construction of bogs
- Perimeter ditches were used for drain water conveyance

1985

- Application of chemicals through the irrigation system was introduced

1992

- Farm planning began as a demonstration of compliance for wetland and waterways

2002

- 2002 Farm Bill was passed.
- Earmark in 2002 Farm Bill for cranberries creating a partnership between NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service), PCCD (Plymouth County Conservation District) and CCCGA (Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association)
- Farm planning was a prerequisite for USDA-NRCS cost sharing programs such as Environmental Quality Improvement Program (EQIP)
- Prior to 2002 Farm Bill very little funding for perennial beds such as cranberries
- 10 years of farm planning for compliance related issues became serendipitous for the cranberry industry