

2016 Industrial Hemp Seeding Rate Trial



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Table 1. Agronomic information for industrial hemp seeding rate trial 2016, Alburgh, VT.

RESULTS

Seasonal precipitation and temperature were recorded with a Davis Instrument Vantage Pro2 weather station, equipped with a WeatherLink data logger at Borderview Research Farm in Alburgh, VT. The growing season was dryer than normal with May-September getting 7.27 fewer inches of precipitation as compared to historical averages (Table 2). Temperatures in June-July were comparable to normal averages, while May and August-September were at least 1.8 degrees warmer than normal, per month. Overall, there were an accumulated 2562 Growing Degree Days (GDDs) this season, approximately 268 more than the historical average. Hemp seed has been shown to produce well with 1460 GDDs at base 50°F in Saskatchewan, Canada.

Table 2. Seasonal weather data collected in Alburgh, VT, 2016.

Alburgh, VT	May	
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DISCUSSION

Based on this study, seeding rates of 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40 lbs ac⁻¹ across the varieties Anka and CFX-2 had comparable yields. Therefore, it is possible that any seeding rate between 20-40 lbs ac⁻¹ may have similar yield outcomes. However, there was considerable variation in the data collected, especially for yield measurements (CV=49). Variation in yields was primarily a result of issues at harvest. Unfortunately, the plot combine used to harvest experimental trials had an engine malfunction and caused our remaining hemp harvest to be delayed past optimum harvest stages. It is interesting to note that populations were statistically similar except for the seeding rate of 35 lbs ac⁻¹. Clearly, additional years of research need to be conducted to determine optimum seeding rates for the northeast.

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