Celery - Increasing Crop Height and Uniformity

Crop/Variety: Celery

Location: Oxnard, CA (2013)

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Demonstration Update

Objective
To improve celery transplant stand establishment, uniformity, and plant size through uniform water distribution.

Set Up
This trial was conducted on 10-acre plots. Treated and untreated plots were on adjoining irrigation sets approximately 50 rows apart. Rows were established on 40-inch beds with 2 lines of celery per bed.

Application
WaterMaxx®2 was applied at 2 quarts per acre through solid set irrigation at transplant. Second and third applications of 1 quart per acre were made at 30-day intervals, the first via sprinkler and the second via drip system.

Results
At the end of the trial the treated plots exhibited greater overall crop height and greater crop height uniformity when compared to the untreated control. The crop heights between the two plots were statistically different, and the height difference was clearly visible in the field between the adjoining plots. Differences in crop color (the treated being a darker green than the untreated) were visually noted by the PCA.

Observations regarding soil tilth were also made. Twenty readings were taken in both the treated and untreated plots, with a targeted depth of 18". The soil in the plot treated with WaterMaxx2 allowed for full penetration of 18" in 15 of the total attemps, while full penetration in the untreated plot was only achieved twice. Soils treated with WaterMaxx2 exhibited overall better soil tilth, indicating a better growing environment for the celery.