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EFFECT OF SODIUM CHLORIDE APPLICATION ON SUGARBEET PRODUCTION

Joseph F. Giles, Allan W. Cattanach and Norman R. Cattanach

Associate Professor, Extension Sugarbeet Specialist and Research Specialist, Department of Soil Science, North Dakota State University and University of Minnesota

The objective of this research is to evaluate the effect of fall and spring applications of sodium chloride and slow release sodium chloride on sugarbeet production.

Procedure:

Field experiments were established on a Fargo silty clay (Fine, smectic, frigid, Typic Epiaquert) north of the airport at Fargo, North Dakota, a Wheatville silt loam (Coarse-silty over clayey, frigid Aeric Calciaquoll) at the Northwest Experiment Station near Crookston, MN and a Fargo silty clay-Bearden silt loam (Fine-silty, frigid Aeric Haplaquoll) near Glyndon, MN during the fall of 1996. Following small grain harvest, chisel plowing to the depth of 6-8 inches was conducted to establish a conventional seedbed. The experiment was arranged in a randomized complete block design with six replications. Individual treatment plots measured 11 feet wide and 30 to 35 feet long. In October, five sodium chloride treatments were applied and incorporated with a field cultivator and included a zero-NaCl control. Three treatments consisted of broadcasting granular NaCl at rates of 100, 200 or 400 lb. NaCl a⁻¹, while the other treatment consisted of applying 200 lb. NaCl a⁻¹ as sulfur coated material. Prior to seedbed preparation with a Alloway Seedbedder in the spring, the same four NaCl treatments were applied.

Sugarbeet were planted on May 2, May 6, and May 12 at Crookston, Glyndon and Fargo, respectively with a John Deere 71 Flex or MaxEmerge 2 planter. Sugarbeet was placed 1.25 inches deep with a 5 inch in-row spacing at Fargo and Glyndon, and a 2 inch spacing at Crookston. Counter 15G at a rate of 11.9 lb./acre was applied in a 3 inch band over the planted seed. A 22 inch row spacing was used. Stand counts were taken on May 27 and June 3 at Fargo, May 20 and 30 at Crookston, and May 19, 21 and 28 at Glyndon. Counts were made in the rows to be harvested in the fall. Sugarbeets were thinned to a 150 beet per 100 feet of row at Crookston at the four leaf stage. Post emergence herbicides, cultivation and hand labor were used as needed for weed control at all locations.

Root maggot infestation during the month of July at the Glyndon site, resulted in the abandonment of the three replications on the Bearden silt loam soil prior to harvest.

Sugarbeets were harvested during the last week of September. The middle two rows of each 6 row plot were harvested. Yield determinations were made and quality analysis performed at American Crystal Sugar Quality Tare Lab, East Grand Forks, MN.

Results and Discussion:

Sugarbeet plant emergence was not affect by sodium chloride applications on the heavy clay soil at the Fargo location (Table 1). A comparision of these early season counts with those taken at harvest

shows very little decrease in stand during the growing season at this location. The spring 400 sodium chloride application significantly reduced plant numbers in two of the three stand counts taken at the Glyndon location (Table 2). Harvest population numbers show total emergence had not occurred at the time the last stand count was taken. The 200 pound fall sulfur coated and spring applications significantly decreased plant numbers on the first counting date at this location. Likewise, the spring application of 100 and 400 pound applications were significantly less on the first plant count at the Crookston location (Table 3).

Results averaged across the three locations show a slight, however, nonsignificant increase in recoverable sugar per acre (Table 4) with a spring application of 100 and 400 pounds of sodium chloride. Results were not consistent across all locations. With the root maggot damage occurring at the Glyndon site, the data is somewhat more variable than at the other two locations. The sulfur coated product was not significantly different than the conventional product.

Other parameters measured at harvest time (tables 5-13) were not affected by sodium chloride applications, except at the Glyndon location where 400 pounds applied in the fall or in the spring significantly reduce sucrose percentage from the fall sulfur coated application. A harvest population count was not made at the Crookston location.

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Table 1. Effect of sodium chloride application on sugarbeet plant establishment (plants per 100 feet) at Fargo, 1997.

<u>Treatment</u>	<u>May 27</u>	<u>June 3</u>
Check	19	130
Fall 100	27	137
Fall 200	20	137
Fall 200S	24	124
Fall 400	16	121
Spring 100	24	127
Spring 200	19	124
Spring 200S	25	136
Spring 400	31	135
LSD (.05)	NS	NS

Table 2. Effect of sodium chloride application on sugarbeet plant establishment (plants per 100 feet) at Glyndon, 1997.

<u>Treatment</u>	<u>May 19</u>	<u>May 21</u>	<u>May 28</u>
Check	39 abc	87	143 a
Fall 100	45 a	98	156 a
Fall 200	37 abc	86	146 a
Fall 200S	28 bcd	82	136 ab
Fall 400	40 ab	92	140 a
Spring 100	46 a	98	155 a
Spring 200	26 cd	75	136 ab
Spring 200S	40 ab	92	152 a
Spring 400	21 d	67	115 b

Means within columns followed by common letter are not significantly different by Duncan's New Multiple range test at P=.05.

Table 3. Effect of sodium chloride application on sugarbeet plant establishment (plants per 100 feet) at Crookston, 1997.

<u>Treatment</u>	<u>May 20</u>	<u>May 30</u>
Check	594 a	778
Fall 100	518 ab	671
Fall 200	559 ab	709
Fall 200S	501 abc	695
Fall 400	601 a	747
Spring 100	476 bc	674
Spring 200	499 abc	720
Spring 200S	518 ab	704
Spring 400	398 c	649

Means within columns followed by common letter are not significantly different by Duncan's New Multiple range test at P=.05.

Table 4. Effect of sodium chloride application on recoverable sugar production, pounds per acre at Crookston, Fargo and Glyndon, 1997.

<u>Treatment</u>	<u>Crookston</u>	<u>Fargo</u>	<u>Glyndon</u>	<u>Mean</u>
Check	7028	5954	4673	6090
Fall 100	6814	5997	6420	6371
Fall 200	7165	5484	5991	5939
Fall 200S	7039	5838	6933	6286
Fall 400	7485	5733	5243	6299
Spring 100	7353	6200	6995	6568
Spring 200	6795	5799	5712	6143
Spring 200S	6896	5690	6340	6015
Spring 400	7433	6269	6418	6592
LSD (.05)	NS	NS	NS	NS

Table 5. Effect of sodium chloride application on recoverable sugar production, pounds per ton at Crookston, Fargo and Glyndon, 1997.

<u>Treatment</u>	<u>Crookston</u>	<u>Fargo</u>	<u>Glyndon</u>	<u>Mean</u>
Check	300	264	289	282
Fall 100	295	269	305	286
Fall 200	307	254	295	279
Fall 200S	297	273	317	286
Fall 400	308	260	277	281
Spring 100	303	274	308	287
Spring 200	301	272	281	284
Spring 200S	299	264	306	281
Spring 400	312	265	283	286
LSD (.05)	NS	NS	NS	NS

Table 6. Effect of sodium chloride application on sugarbeet root yield, tons per acre at Crookston, Fargo and Glyndon, 1997.

<u>Treatment</u>	<u>Crookston</u>	<u>Fargo</u>	<u>Glyndon</u>	<u>Mean</u>
Check	23.5	22.4	16.2	21.5
Fall 100	23.1	22.2	21.0	22.2
Fall 200	23.4	21.6	20.4	21.1
Fall 200S	23.7	21.3	21.9	21.8
Fall 400	24.2	22.1	18.9	22.2
Spring 100	24.2	22.6	22.6	22.7
Spring 200	22.5	21.3	20.3	21.5
Spring 200S	23.1	21.4	20.3	21.1
Spring 400	23.8	23.7	22.7	23.0
LSD (.05)	NS	NS	NS	NS

Table 7. Effect of sodium chloride application on sodium content (ppm) of sugarbeet roots at Crookston, Fargo and Glyndon, 1997.

<u>Treatment</u>	<u>Crookston</u>	<u>Fargo</u>	<u>Glyndon</u>	<u>Mean</u>
Check	467	783	482	605
Fall 100	509	777	444	612
Fall 200	449	904	395	635
Fall 200S	547	746	314	622
Fall 400	489	875	614	677
Spring 100	475	737	342	600
Spring 200	517	735	510	611
Spring 200S	520	724	448	616
Spring 400	435	777	446	572
LSD (.05)	NS	NS	NS	NS

Table 8. Effect of sodium chloride application on potassium content (ppm) of sugarbeet roots at Crookston, Fargo and Glyndon, 1997.

<u>Treatment</u>	<u>Crookston</u>	<u>Fargo</u>	<u>Glyndon</u>	<u>Mean</u>
Check	1438	1905	1807	1696
Fall 100	1530	1986	1806	1766
Fall 200	1524	2048	1945	1858
Fall 200S	1541	2029	1980	1828
Fall 400	1488	2155	1637	1782
Spring 100	1517	1909	1926	1770
Spring 200	1558	2116	2040	1875
Spring 200S	1485	2120	1910	1870
Spring 400	1594	2135	2158	1932
LSD (.05)	NS	199	NS	NS

Table 9. Effect of sodium chloride application on sucrose percentage of sugarbeet roots at Crookston, Fargo and Glyndon, 1997.

<u>Treatment</u>	<u>Crookston</u>	<u>Fargo</u>	<u>Glyndon</u>	<u>Mean</u>
Check	16.5	15.0	16.0	15.8
Fall 100	16.4	15.2	16.8	16.0
Fall 200	16.8	14.6	16.3	15.6
Fall 200S	16.5	15.4	17.3	16.0
Fall 400	16.9	14.9	15.6	15.8
Spring 100	16.7	15.6	16.9	16.1
Spring 200	16.6	15.4	15.7	15.9
Spring 200S	16.5	15.0	16.8	15.7
Spring 400	17.1	15.1	15.8	16.0
LSD (.05)	NS	NS	1.2	NS

Table 10. Effect of sodium chloride application nitrate grade of sugarbeet roots at Crookston, Fargo and Glyndon, 1997.

<u>Treatment</u>	<u>Crookston</u>	<u>Fargo</u>	<u>Glyndon</u>	<u>Mean</u>
Check	3.2	4.6	3.8	3.9
Fall 100	3.6	5.2	2.9	4.2
Fall 200	3.0	4.7	3.2	3.9
Fall 200S	3.6	5.2	2.2	4.0
Fall 400	3.5	5.0	3.9	4.2
Spring 100	3.4	4.6	2.6	3.8
Spring 200	3.8	4.4	3.9	4.1
Spring 200S	3.7	4.4	3.1	4.0
Spring 400	3.2	4.7	3.3	3.8
LSD (.05)	NS	NS	NS	NS

Table 11. Effect of sodium chloride application on loss to molasses (percent) in sugarbeet roots at Crookston, Fargo and Glyndon, 1997.

<u>Treatment</u>	<u>Crookston</u>	<u>Fargo</u>	<u>Glyndon</u>	<u>Mean</u>
Check	1.53	1.78	1.57	1.65
Fall 100	1.60	1.78	1.57	1.67
Fall 200	1.47	1.94	1.53	1.69
Fall 200S	1.63	1.72	1.43	1.67
Fall 400	1.52	1.93	1.77	1.74
Spring 100	1.55	1.84	1.50	1.69
Spring 200	1.57	1.77	1.70	1.68
Spring 200S	1.55	1.84	1.50	1.69
Spring 400	1.50	1.86	1.67	1.67
LSD (.05)	NS	NS	NS	NS

Table 12. Effect of sodium chloride application on amino nitrogen content (ppm) of sugarbeets at Crookston, Fargo and Glyndon, 1997.

<u>Treatment</u>	<u>Crookston</u>	<u>Fargo</u>	<u>Glyndon</u>	<u>Mean</u>
Check	633	593	549	603
Fall 100	650	561	556	598
Fall 200	576	640	507	580
Fall 200S	655	549	458	584
Fall 400	602	592	606	601
Spring 100	623	646	533	620
Spring 200	624	535	574	581
Spring 200S	607	590	493	580
Spring 400	580	603	566	576
LSD (.05)	NS	NS	NS	NS

Table 13. Effect of sodium chloride application on harvest population (roots per 100 feet of row) of sugarbeets at Fargo and Glyndon, 1997.

<u>Treatment</u>	<u>Fargo</u>	<u>Glyndon</u>	<u>Mean</u>
Check	126	163	133
Fall 100	125	164	133
Fall 200	122	159	119
Fall 200S	121	168	126
Fall 400	123	157	129
Spring 100	120	189	132
Spring 200	116	158	125
Spring 200S	119	181	126
Spring 400	133	171	135
LSD (.05)	NS	NS	NS