

TRANSITIONING TO THE MEGA 3-250 MICRON DRAIN AT THE ATOCAS BÉDARD FARM

Agricultural subsurface collection solution: the Mega 3-250 micron drain provides the best performance for filtration and permittivity.

In cranberry production, it is essential to control soil moisture through proper drainage or irrigation, depending on conditions. In 2017, Patrick Bédard, owner of the Atocas Bédard Farm chose to transition to a drain combining Mega 3 perforations (Type 3) and a filtering sheath with 250-micron openings, for his farms located in Saint-Louis-de-Blandford (250 acres) and Princeville (50 acres).



THE CONTEXT

Founded in 1995, Atocas Bédard Farm grows 300 acres of cranberries on its two farms. Grown on sandy soils, cranberries require good moisture control; well drained or irrigated soils ensure optimal growth of this plant. Water must be available to producers quickly to protect the crop and facilitate harvesting. This is why they spend a lot of time and energy draining their fields and installing an irrigation system to maintain an ideal level of humidity. Also, cultivated land must have a controlled water table to counter the effects of drought in summer. At the Atocas Bédard Farm, there are two soil compositions on the farms: in Saint-Louis-de-Blandford, the soil is sandy, ideal for cranberry cultivation, while at the Princeville field the soil is sandy on the surface but becomes clayey at less than 1 m (3 ft) deep.

THE SOLUTION

Owing to its soil composition, 50 acres were drained with the Mega 3-250 micron drain on the Princeville farm in the summer of 2017. Satisfied with the performance of this sheathed drain, Mr. Bédard is continuing the transition and renovating a few dozen acres at the Saint-Louis-de-Blandford farm this year with Mega 3-250 micron drain.

THE BENEFITS

The Mega 3-250 micron drain is recommended for sandy soils in cranberry fields; it provides the best performance in terms of filtration and permittivity. According to Mr. Bédard, the drain chosen is much more versatile; the Mega 3-250 micron drain performs much faster than the Type 3-100 micron drain installed later, which results in a soil that drains as well in Princeville as in Saint-Louisde-Blandford, despite the composition of the soil.

Mega 3 perforations are more than 3 mm, facilitate the drainage of rainwater and allow for the control of the water table level. The size and number of holes in the Mega 3 drain, in 4 rows, allow water to be captured and drained faster, and prevent water from remaining on the surface. "After a big downpour, surface water is drained off, and there remains no puddles in the fields", he says.

The non-woven polypropylene filtering sheath with 250-micron openings plays a crucial role in preventing fine silt from entering the perforated drainage pipe and causing drain obstruction problems. The Mega 3-250 micron drain is available in a maximum length of 1200 metres and it is easy to install in the field.

Mr. Bédard also underlines the involvement of his Soleno representative who provides a remarkable presence and support, from the product selection and throughout the installation. "Soleno's technical advice is what I appreciate the most".









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