

**Workshop:**

Irrigation strategies for a changing climate

**Speaker:**

David Greenberg

**Executive Summary:**

This workshop was a farmer-to-farmer discussion workshop on irrigation strategies.

Farmer's asked questions on topics that ranged from: watering carrots and tomatoes to basic of plumbing and soil types.

**Main Notes:**

*Farmer to farmer discussion- whole room is included in discussion*

- ◆ When is it most important to deliver water to a certain crop?
- ◆ Carrots: white satin did very well, purple haze did not, very scrawny.
- ◆ "Make the roots work, and you'll be better off"
- ◆ Wants the soil to get wet, and then dry, and then wet, and then dry and so on.
- ◆ Aerometer: moisture meter for soil
- ◆ Tomatoes do not like wet feet. Large raised beds work well for breathing since the water runs off quicker and doesn't pool around the roots of the plants
- ◆ Sandy loam, organic matter around 4 or 5; no higher.
- ◆ No one size fits all
- ◆ Amount of water irrigation changes the taste of tomatoes. Water tomatoes until they start ripening, then stop, for best taste.
- ◆ Mulching
- ◆ Irrigating in greenhouses

- ◆ Types of irrigation systems
- ◆ Commercial irrigation: drip or overhead systems? For which crops?
- ◆ On larger farms, they want a lot of water very fast with as little material as possible, whereas on smaller farms, that is not necessary.
- ◆ Focus drip where he thinks he is going to need.
- ◆ Drip irrigation focuses on where you need the water instead of just putting random water down where ever it pleases to go.
- ◆ 2000 litres of water per 100 feet of soil to get sprinklers to penetrate the soil.  
Sprinklers will most likely kill your water supplies if you use them because they would omit more water than could be supported.
- ◆ Reuse everything much easier to use plastic mulch
- ◆ If running longer than 400 ft, might want to rethink.
- ◆ Basic plumbing for farmers: trying to suggest as a topic for future conferences; keeps getting turned down every year for some reason.
- ◆ Off grid solutions