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Black currant – cover crops and water use
The aim is to

improve water availability
develop methods to reduce competition from weed in the row

Methods & materials
field grown black currant - Ben Hope & Narve Viking

Ben Hope – irrigation or no-irrigation

treatments in the row
mulching:
black polypropylene MyPex
rape straw
cover crop:
week grass
mechanical weeding
Tournesol
Hand weeding
Ben Hope yield 2013 in relation to weed management and irrigation

Week grass in row
Mechanical
MyPex
Rape straw

kg/bush

non-irrigated
irrigated

The Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme
Investing in the future by working together for a sustainable and competitive region
Soil water in relation to depth (% at cm depth) in April, May and June in irrigated Narve Viking
Conclusion

Rape straw can be used for mulching in the row and increase the water efficiency
Mechanical weeding decreases the water efficiency
Competition within the row should be avoided
Water uptake is high at 30 cm’s depth
Conclusion

No effect of cover crop cultivar or treatment on yield in Narve Viking.
Narve Viking seems drought tolerant.