

Permanent Drip Applications for the Treasure Valley

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MYDI

Multi-Year Drip Irrigation

The installation of drip tape with the intent of keeping the irrigation system in place for 4 or more years. Use is primarily thought to be in row crops and some *select* permanent crops.

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Background Info

- ▣ SDI vs MYDI
 - Shorter life span
 - Easier Installation
 - Lower Installation Cost
 - Allows Justification
 - ▣ Agronomic
 - ▣ Economic
- ▣ History of SDI in the Treasure Valley
 - Seed Alfalfa
 - Gophers, voles, etc
 - Dealer & Extension Avoidance

What Has Changed?

- ▣ Row Crop brings several benefits
 - Tillage, which can break up colonies
 - Elimination of the attraction of the alfalfa roots
 - Planting of crops that are thought to minimize gopher activity
- ▣ Successfully Grown Crops on MYDI
 - Field Corn
 - Peppermint
 - Sugarbeets
 - Dry Beans
 - Wheat

Installation Considerations



Tape Selection

**Spacing
between Tape
Lines**

**Tape Installation
Depth**



There has
been a
“learning
curve”

On to the Successes: SugarBeets



Dry Beans



Field Corn



Field Corn MYDI



Despite being planted 3 weeks later, the Drip Irrigated Silage Corn out yielded the pivot



Peppermint





Mint Yields

- ▣ Normal Accepted Range of Yields

- Baby Mint
 - ▣ 80 to 100 lb/ac
- Mature Mint
 - ▣ 120 to 140 lb/ac

- ▣ Furrow Mint

- Baby Mint – 94 lb
- 2013 – 140 lb
- 2014 – 52 lb
- 2015 – plowed out

- ▣ MYDI Mint

- Baby Mint – 133 lb
- 2013 – 188 lb
- 2014 – 158 lb
- 2015 – 148 lb
- 2016 – 95 lb
- 2017 - Still in Production

Agronomic Tally

FEATURE

- ▣ Installation of MYDI

BENEFIT

- ▣ Reduced water use
- ▣ More water for other higher value crops
- ▣ Reduced herbicides as fewer weeds enter field
- ▣ Extended crop stand
- ▣ More uniform crop
- ▣ Reduced fertilizer use
- ▣ Increased access times
- ▣ Lower labor costs

Economic Tally



- ▣ Lower operating costs
 - Water costs
 - Pesticides
 - Fertilizer
 - Equipment
 - Labor
- ▣ Improved crop quality
 - Total Tonnage
 - Increased Crop Quality
 - Minimized Erosion

NET RESULT: SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER PROFITS

MYDI

A Paradigm Shift

- Improved Land Stewardship
- Reduced Environmental Impact
- Higher Quality Yields
- Lower Annual Costs
- Higher Overall Profit Margin



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