

MORLEY RESEARCH CENTRE Field margin buffer strips

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Summary

Trial abandoned

Object

To demonstrate the management costs and benefits of buffer strips adjacent to water courses

Method

Site Deopham Green, Morley Research Centre, Norfolk

Soil type and series Sandy loam over chalky boulder clay (Ashley series)

Variety Farm sugar beet

Treatments Comparison of effects of three contrasting field boundary management regimes on crop performance (see below)

Sowing date

Husbandry Adjacent farm sugar beet crop receiving normal farm inputs

Trial design Unreplicated field boundary strips

Analysis Not statistically valid

Plot size Field boundary strips 110 x 6 m; 3 strips of adjacent sugar beet 4 m wide

Application

Experiment diary

Deviations from protocol • Not implemented

Field boundary management

Zones of 6 metre width adjacent to drainage ditch

1. Untreated field margin.
 - No pesticides applied to buffer strip
2. Treated field margin.
 - Allowed products applied to buffer strip
3. Grass margin.
 - 6 metre wide strip established with a non rye-grass set-aside style mix with wild flowers, mown in February.

Results

Experiment abandoned

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*Not for publication without the consent of the Director of Morley Research Centre.