CRANBERRIES in the classroom

Growing Cranberries

Cranberry growers monitor their bogs to make sure the vines are healthy. IPM, or Integrated Pest Management, is a way growers check the health of their plants.

In winter, growers flood the bogs to protect the buds from the cold. When the water freezes, ice forms. A thin layer of (1) _____ is spread over the ice. When spring comes the (2) _____ melts and the sand filters down through the vines. This helps the vines grow and destroys insect eggs on the bog floor.

Once spring arrives the cranberry vine needs to be rejuvenated from its winter rest. The grower usually applies (3) _____ to give the plants nutrients.

In spring, other plants begin to compete with the cranberry plant for space, water and sun. If other plants become too thick, they can crowd the cranberry vine and eventually choke it. The grower protects the vines by removing the unwanted plants, or using an applicator with a chemical on it. The grower brushes this onto the leaves of the unwanted plant destroying it but not harming anything else.

During the growing season, the grower continues to check the vines. If they appear unhealthy, the grower must find out what is wrong and treat this. If a (4) _____ has attacked the plant, the bog may be flooded with water to eliminate the disease, or a (5) _____ may be applied to cure the plant.

In summer, bees are brought in by the grower to help pollinate the flowers. Other insects can also be found everywhere on the bog. The grower must determine what insects are there, how many there are and whether they are (6) _____ or harmful to the plant. The grower uses a net to sweep the vines. She counts and identifies the insects she has caught. Or she can use (7) _____ in various locations that attract the insects and capture them in a sticky substance. She then identifies and counts them.

The grower then determines how many harmful insects have been captured. If there are only a few, the damage will be small so nothing is done. If there are enough insects to do damage, water can be used to destroy them by flooding the bog for a week or two. Sometimes another (8) _____ or bird can prey on the harmful insects. Bird houses and bat houses, can be built to attract birds and bat

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to prey on harmful insects and rodents. If none of these methods work, chemicals may be applied to remove only those insects that are harmful.

The use of water is very important to the grower. In winter, it covers the (9) _____ and protects the buds. In spring, water sprinkled on the plants on cold nights shields the buds and in the fall (10) _____ the berries from freezing. This is called frost protection.

Growers have (11) _____ on their bogs to monitor the temperature and alert them when the temperature gets too low. The same thermometers are used in the summer to alter the grower when the temperature gets too (12) _____. Water is used in both cases to protect the plant.

Water is also important during harvest. The grower uses a gravity system to flood each section of the bog when the berries are ready to be harvested. The water is moved from one (13) _____ to another system of dikes and flumes to let the water in and out. Once all of the bogs are harvest, the water is returned to the (14) _____ from which it came.

Word Bank:

Helpful	High	Reservoir	Traps
Chemical	Ice	Sand	Vines
Disease	Insect	Section	
Fertilizer	Protects	Thermometers	

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Answer Key:

1. Sand
2. Ice
3. Fertilizer
4. Disease
5. Chemical
6. Helpful
7. Traps
8. Insect
9. Vines
10. Protects
11. Thermometers
12. High
13. Section
14. Reservoir