# The production of strawberry plants to meet today's requirements

Dr. Eamonn Kehoe Teagasc Soft Fruit Adviser Teagasc Wexford.



## **Objectives**

- Present plant propagation in Ireland
- Propagation in the Netherlands
- Outline of plant types and production methods used
- Fruit production in the Netherlands
- Final conclusions

## Propagation-Irish situation

- Ireland-season now from April-Oct
- Irish can only supply plants for part of season
- Cold stored plants are needed for 60day & protected cropping
- Vast majority of plants imported
- Mostly from the Netherlands and the UK
- Challenge for the Irish propagator !!

## **Propagation-Irish situation**The future

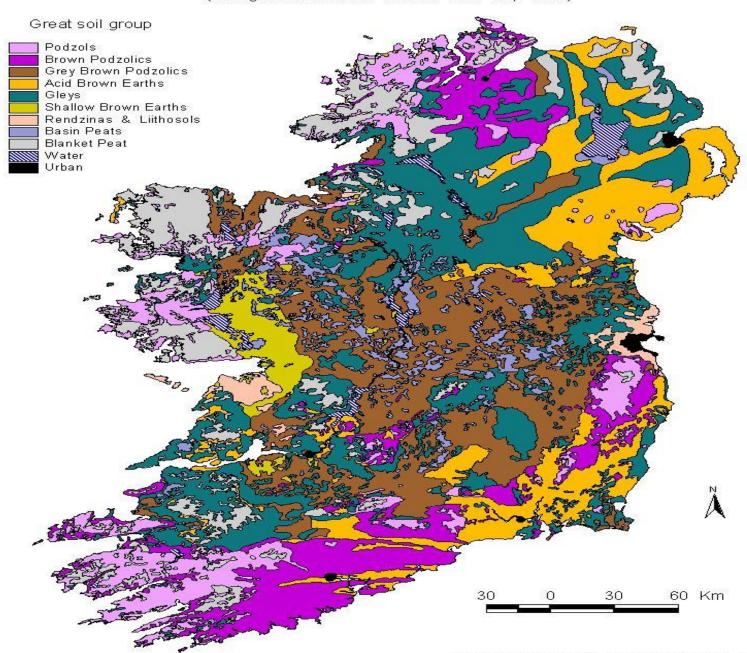
- At least 3 tray plant producers
- Requirement for a large bare root plant producer

#### but....

- Must produce in sandy free draining soil
- Invest in large cold store facilities

#### Ireland: Great Soil Groups

(Categorised from the General Soils Map 1980)



GIS Dr. BS Coulter & EJ McDonald

(C) TEAGASC JOHNSTOWN CASTLE 2001

Ref. MJ Gardiner et al, National Soil Survey 1980 N.I. Soils S. McConaghy & V. McAllister

## Today's plant requirements

- A+ extra, A+ and A etc.
- Tray plant's
- Waiting bed plants- heavy, medium, small etc.

#### NETHERLANDS WADDEN Schiermonnikoog 50 km Ameland Terschelling 30 mi Lauwersoog Vlieland Holwerd North Harlingen Groningen Sea Texel Den Helder NETHERLANDS Zwolle ljmuiden Haarlem Amsterdam Enschede Leiden a Hoge Veluwe andstad • Utrecht The Hague • R Delft Arnhem Rotterdam Delta GERMANY Region Breda . Tilburg Middelburg Eindhoven BELGIUM Maastricht Brussels Lonely Planet

## Waiting bed plants

- A+ extra, A+ and A etc.
- Tray plant's
- Waiting bed plants- heavy, medium, small etc.





















## A+ and A etc...

- A+ extra, A+ and A etc.
- Tray plant's
- Waiting bed plants- heavy, medium, small etc.







## Tray plants

- A+ extra, A+ and A etc.
- Tray plant's
- Waiting bed plants- heavy, medium, small etc.































## Fruit production







### Conclusions:

- Labour charge was greatest cost difference between growers
- Break even in first year of prodn.
- Must get as much yield as possible..use bigger plants??
- Can reduce costs to a point but this extra yield is vital.