

Berry Grower Update

March 13th, 2012

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County

8:30am: Registration & Light Breakfast

9am: Welcome

9:15am: "Water Management & Irrigation for Small Berries and Brambles" – Dr. Larry Geohring, Cornell University
Climate change and rising energy costs will challenge the productivity, profitability, and sustainability of commercial berry production. This presentation will address water management requirements of small berries and brambles with respect to potential changing climatic conditions, and what commercial growers should consider to address these issues. Efficient methods of irrigation technology such as drip irrigation will be discussed, along with information on how to compare rising energy and pumping costs.

10am: Soil & Nutrient Management – Dr. Marvin Pritts, Cornell University
This session will address the major considerations for soil management in berry crops, with an emphasis on nutrition. The following will be addressed: soil physical properties, soil biological properties, soil chemical properties, sampling and testing, principles of supplying nutrients to berry crops, and expectations regarding plant response to fertilizer and lime.

10:45am: Weed Management in Strawberries/Blueberries – Dr. Marvin Pritts, Cornell University
Weeds are perhaps the greatest challenge for berry growers. Managing them requires considerable planning and strategic use of multiple tools. This session will review strategies for managing weeds, and discuss approaches to control particular problematic weeds, including herbicides.

11:30am: Organic berry guides and TracBerry record-keeping software from the NYS IPM Program – Dr. Juliet Carroll, Cornell University
Learn how to obtain the Organic Blueberry and Strawberry Production Guides and TracBerry software. Details about the content of the organic guides will be presented. Growers will gain an understanding of the steps involved in certifying their farms for organic production and protecting their crops from pests with pesticides and biologicals that are allowed in organic production. TracBerry software for keeping spray records and generating spray reports, such as the Applicator Record and the USEPA Central Posting Form, will be demonstrated. Growers will gain an appreciation of the importance of accurate records and how easy it is to use TracBerry software.

12:15pm: Lunch, provided

1pm: Effective Sprayers for Berry Crops – Dr. Andrew Landers, Cornell University/Geneva Experiment Station
The best pest controls in the world don't work if they don't reach their target, and it's surprising how many sprayers out there are a load of rubbish! Dr. Landers will discuss characteristics of sprayers that work well and why they work. He'll also show examples of innovative sprayer technology for small scale berry production.

1:45pm: Disease Management Update: Root Diseases – Dr. Kerik Cox, Cornell University
The presentation will focus on root diseases of blueberries, raspberries, and strawberries in the field production settings. Diseases relevant to and reported in NY production operations will be used as model systems to illustrate production-relevant information. Specific topics to be covered will include diagnosis and management considerations for root diseases of blueberries, raspberries and strawberries.

2:30pm: Variety Updates – Dr. Courtney Weber, Cornell University
Variety choice in berry production has broad implications in production systems, marketing and pest management decisions. Standard strawberry, raspberry and blueberry varieties will be discussed as well as new varieties that may

have application in NY growing conditions. Pest management considerations regarding particular susceptibility and resistance to insect and disease pests of individual varieties will be discussed. Seasonal differences between pest management and marketing opportunities will be emphasized in relation to fruit quality and yield considerations when choosing berry varieties for fresh market and/or processing.

3:15pm: ARTHROPOD PEST MANAGEMENT FOR SMALL FRUIT CROPS – Cathy Heidenreich, Cornell University/Geneva Experiment Station

This talk will provide a brief overview of the key arthropod pests of berry crops with an emphasis on strawberries, raspberries and blueberries. It will cover aspects of pest biology and ecology, damage symptoms and impact, and alternative management tactics (e.g. chemical, biological, and cultural control). Key pests to be covered include tarnished plant bug, strawberry sap beetle, raspberry cane borer, raspberry crown borer, spider mites, Japanese beetle, cranberry fruitworm, blueberry maggot. It will also include information on 2 new pests - spotted wing drosophila and brown marmorated stinkbug. In addition to specific pest information, it will also review some of the important key concepts of integrated pest management.

Cost: \$30pp.

4.5 DEC credits available in the following categories: 1a,11 & 22

To register or for more information, contact Carol at clf62@cornell.edu or (607) 772-8953.