

BLUEBERRY RENEWAL PRUNING STUDY

Dick Byne's 2002 Commercial/Organic Blueberry Trial Plots
(Highway 24 and Story Mill Road-Waynesboro, Georgia)

Tmt. #1	Tmt. #2	Tmt. #3	Tmt. #4
XXXXX	Pruned back to 4', 5-6 oldest canes per bush OOOOO	XXXXX	Control treatment OOOOO

Pruned back only north side
(far side) taking out 5-6
oldest canes per bush

Randomly pruned out
5-6 oldest canes per bush

No pruning

The average existing bush height was 8 feet tall for the variety Climax in row 8.
The twenty (20) year old bushes were pruned on March 6, 2002 for their first pruning.
Each treatment contained 5 bushes.

There was one sample harvest made on June 11, 2002 (approximately 2 weeks after the first fruit ripening). No fruit was harvested from May 29 to June 11th.

Treatment #1-----1 3/4 pints

Treatment #2-----4 pints

Treatment #3-----5 1/2 pints

Treatment #4-----7 1/4 pints

Conclusions/Observations-2002

1. Treatment #3 gave the highest yield of the pruning treatments.
2. The control treatment #4, gave the highest total yield, but consisted of 20-25 percent smaller berries. The berries were harder to pick due to greater congestion by higher density of bushes and weeds.
3. In addition to smaller size, the fruit from the control treatment was also less sweet (more acidic).

**Submitted By: Jerry Larson, FVSU Ext. Agent
Roosevelt McWilliams, Burke County Extension Agent**

