

## **Bramble (Caneberry) Seasonal Checklist Summer 2011**

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This checklist was originally developed for blackberry growers in North Carolina. Many of the items apply to raspberry production as well. You may have to adjust your work activities either earlier or later depending on your location. For more detailed information, check the Southern Region Integrated Bramble Management Guide and the Southeast Regional Bramble Production Guide at: <http://www.smallfruits.org/SmallFruitsRegGuide/index.htm>

### **SUMMER**

#### *Plant growth and development*

- ✓ Fruit development
- ✓ Rapid primocane growth
- ✓ Floricanes senesce after harvest
- ✓ Primocane fruiting types produce fruit

#### *Pruning and Trellising*

Erect types:

- ✓ Hedge (tip) the new primocanes when they are about 6-12" below the top wire of the trellis to encourage lateral branching
- ✓ Continue hedging at monthly intervals to maintain desired branching and height of canopy (laterals should reach top wire)
- ✓ Prune out spent floricanes after they have produced fruit, do not thin out primocanes until mid-to late winter.
- ✓ Train primocanes to trellis to minimize interference with harvest. Shift trellises or V trellises make this relatively easy

Trailing types

- ✓ Train new primocanes to middle of trellis, on ground in a weed free area or temporarily to trellis outside of fruiting area (depends on trellis type)
- ✓ Cut back side shoots to 18"
- ✓ Remove spent floricanes after harvest

#### *Weed management*

- ✓ Mow along side of row to maintain the width of the bed to 3-4 ft.
- ✓ Weed growth can be very vigorous at the same time as the bramble crop peaks.
- ✓ Weed control is best done earlier in the season before harvest commences.
- ✓ Mow middles regularly to allow pickers to move through rows easily

#### *Insect and disease scouting*

List are some of the insects and diseases that you may find this summer in your plants. Check the Southern Regional Bramble integrated Management Guide for recommendations.

[www.smallfruits.org](http://www.smallfruits.org) AND Dr. Hannah Burracks Blog. She is working with Extension agents and growers to monitor the Spotted Wing Drosophila incidence in 2011.

<http://ncsmallfruitsipm.blogspot.com/>

## Insects

- ✓ Spotted Wing Drosophila
- ✓ Raspberry crown borer (canes girdled and wilt)
- ✓ Psyllid
- ✓ Two spotted spider mite
- ✓ June beetle

## Disease

- ✓ Cane blight
- ✓ Botrytis
- ✓ Late rust
- ✓ Sooty blotch
- ✓ Orange rust
- ✓ Powdery mildew

## *Water management*

- ✓ Bramble plants need about 1"-2" water/week, and this amount is especially critical during harvest.
- ✓ Consider installing an overhead system for evaporative cooling to reduce sunscald. Turn on once or twice a day from 10 am to 3 pm for short periods of time (approx. 15 minutes).
- ✓ Give plants a deep irrigation after harvest

## *Nutrient management*

- ✓ Take leaf samples after harvest and send to a clinic for nutrient analysis. For information on how to sample and where to send samples in NC go to:  
<http://www.ncagr.com/agronomi/pwshome.htm>

## *Harvest and marketing*

- ✓ Blackberries are fully ripe when they are dull black, PYO only
- ✓ Pick shiny black fruit for shipping
- ✓ Pick directly into clamshells with absorbent pads OR for PYO use soft drink flats
- ✓ Keep harvested fruit in shade and move into coolers as soon as possible to lengthen the shelf life of the fruit.
- ✓ Force air precooler is best for removal of field heat
- ✓ Store at 32 to 34°F and 95% RH
- ✓ Freeze excess fruit for jam, juice or wine

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