

Small Fruit News

**the
Southern Region**
small fruits consortium

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Clemson University
NC State University
University of Georgia
University of Tennessee

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Activities of the Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium in 2003

Tom Monaco
North Carolina State University

The consortium has been very active in 2003. A major revision of the web page was completed in the fall of 2003 making it an easier site to navigate. Please visit the site at <http://www.smallfruits.org/> and provide us with your comments. We also solicit your contributions to the web page which can be sent directly to our web master Brenda Willis or Tom Monaco at tom_monaco@ncsu.edu.

Thirteen research grants totaling \$58,750 were awarded in 2003. Progress and/or final reports from the 2003 sponsored research is now posted on the SRSFC web site. A total of \$55,000 was budgeted for 2004 research proposals and \$10,000 was budgeted for extension/outreach proposals.

A county in-service training on anthracnose of strawberries was held at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel, Research Triangle Park, NC November 11, 2003. This workshop was also sponsored by

the Southeast Strawberry Expo and was held in conjunction with that meeting which ran Nov. 9-11. Nineteen agents from NC, SC, GA and TN received full scholarships from the SRSFC to attend the training which included registration to the Expo allowing them to attend the educational sessions at the Expo in addition to the workshop on anthracnose. A total of 35 agents from the four consortium member states and VA attended the workshop. The agents attending the workshop gave the workshop high marks in their evaluations.

The SRSFC has been involved in supporting pest management programs for small fruits. VA and NC received state labels for Stinger herbicide to control hard-to-kill weeds in plasticulture strawberries. The SRSFC petitioned Dow Agrochemical the manufacturer of Stinger herbicide to secure state labels for Stinger in SC, GA, TN and AL. This has been unsuccessful to date because a shift in strategy by Dow to pursue state labels with third party registrants in these states.

The SRSFC submitted a pest clearance request to the IR-4 program for the labeling of chlorpyrifos insecticide to control crown borer insects in blackberries and raspberries. The crown borer significantly decreases the life of bramble plantings to the point that it is not economical to plant

these crops and there are currently no effective control measures for this pest. This petition was submitted on behalf the southern states. Other options are being pursued and it has been subsequently discovered that Diazinon and Guthion insecticides have labels for crown borer but there is some question whether either of these products can be used in our region. The SRSFC is continuing to work with the IR-4 program on this problem.

The SRSFC was featured in the December issue of the Growing magazine page 24-25. The name of the article is "A Fruit's Best Friend, A look at the Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium" by Jean E. Rightmire. I was interviewed for the article and some of the funded research was featured in the article. This provided the consortium some good exposure.

Our goals for 2004 include continuation of our grant program; two agent training sessions; increased membership; continual improvement of the web page and more active solicitation of contributions to the web page; advocating for small fruit growers on specific problems particularly in the pest management arena; and seeking additional grant funding from regional and federal sources.

Bramble Chores

Winter/Spring 2004

Dr. Gina Fernandez
Associate Professor/Small Fruit Specialist
North Carolina State University

Please note the new contact information for me. I have relocated to the main campus. However, my job is essentially the same and I still have bramble responsibilities, don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Here is a brief summary of chores for the next few months to prepare your brambles for the upcoming growing season.

MEETING: North American Bramble Growers Annual Meeting

The 2004 meeting of the NABGA will be held in Tampa FL on Feb 21-22. Food Safety, Blackberry Model Budgets, Status of chemicals for pest control, Grower panels are just a few of the topics that will be covered during this 2 day meeting. Contact Richard Fagan for program details:

Richard W. Fagan
Exec. Sec. NABGA
13006 Mason Rd. NE
Cumberland, MD 21502
Phone/Fax 301 724 4085/3020
E-mail NABGA@charter.net

The meeting site will be the Hilton Westshore.
Hotel phone 1-813-877-6688
www.hiltontampawestshore.com

PRUNING

Fall Bearing Raspberries. Fall bearing (actually mid to late summer for most of NC) raspberries fruit at the top of the current season's canes ("primocanes"). The simplest way to manage these varieties is to mow them off at ground level during the dormant season. Be sure to mow them off close to the ground so that new shoots come from the roots and not from lateral buds on cane stumps.

Blackberries and summer fruiting raspberries. These types of brambles bear fruit on second year canes. During the winter prune out the spent floricanes from the previous season. The remaining primocanes are thinned 3-4 / ft².

HERBICIDES

-Apply preemergent herbicide in spring if not applied in fall. There are several chemicals that are labeled for use in NC depending on age of plating and time of application, see your states agricultural chemical recommendations.

-Apply post emergent herbicides as needed. Be sure that the chemical you are using is labeled for bearing plants, many herbicides cannot be used beyond the first year.

INSECT AND DISEASE CONTROL

PREBLOOM

-Apply liquid lime sulphur or Bordeaux for control of anthracnose in late winter or early spring before new buds are less than 1/2" long

-Crown borers can be a problem in the early spring, as well as aphids, thrips, Japanese beetle, fruitworm, rose chafer, stink bugs and psyllids. Catch these early w/ a prebloom spray, see your states agricultural chemical manual for recommended control tactics.

BLOOM:

Double blossom (AKA rosette). Primocanes are infected in the spring or early summer, but disease symptoms are not evident until the following year when new growth begins on the fruiting canes. The best thing to do is to remove the infected floricanes to disrupt the cycle. With the loss of Benlate, chemical control of double blossom with that compound is no longer possible. Botrytis: Apply fungicides at early bloom and repeat at full bloom.

-EPA has approved use of Savey 50DF for control of mites on caneberries, including black and red raspberries and blackberries. The preharvest restrictions are 3 days for caneberries (blackberries and raspberries). Please note that it is only effective on eggs. If you need a copy of the supplemental label, contact your Gowan distributor.

IRRIGATION

-Plan for the irrigation season. Bramble plants need about 1"-2" water/week applied to the soil.

-We have found that overhead irrigation during fruiting prevents loss of fruit due to sunscald.

TRELLISES

-Now is the time for trellis repair. Our experience with an "annual" ice storms in North Carolina has indicated that blackberries benefit from a sturdy trellis. Make sure posts are firmly in the ground and wires are securely attached to the posts.

FERTILIZER

-Place nitrogenous fertilizers in row before new canes emerge in spring. Raspberries: Apply 500-800 lbs of 10-10-10 per acre in split applications. Apply half in Feb-March and the remainder in

April-May. Spread uniformly across the row or side dress with half on each side of row in a 3-foot wide band.

Blackberries: In established plantings apply 60 to 80 lb/acre N. Nitrogen can be applied in split or single applications. If using a split application, apply the first portion at bud break and the remainder just after harvest. Ammonium nitrate is the most common form of N used on blackberries. The incorporation of P and K should be based on soil test recommendations.

Drip: many growers are now using their drip irrigation system for fertilization. We do not have any experience with rates and timing. However, use of the above amounts applied at regular intervals from Feb-May should suffice until we.

PLANTING

-*Order* plants from nurseries in late fall early winter to ensure that what you want is available. Bare root dormant nursery plants are usually available from November to March. Be sure to get clean and healthy plants. New stock should be purchased from nurseries that have grown plants on fumigated land well isolated from other brambles, have been sprayed regularly for insect and disease control, are virus tested and have inspected by state officials.

-*Prepare land for spring planting.* The land should be plowed thoroughly before for planting. NC recommendations suggest that land preparation should be done in mid- to late-February in the coastal plain region and during March in the mountains. Fumigation is recommended to give newly set blackberry plants an advantage by killing most weed seeds and soil pathogens. Optimal row orientation is north - south to minimize sunscald on fruit.

Planting. Early spring planting of dormant stock is best. If plants set late in the spring may be adversely affected by drought or drying winds. Make sure irrigation is available. Some nurseries sell erect blackberry root pieces as planting stock. These are usually cheaper but, you will need more root pieces to fill your row. Root cuttings should be placed 2 to 3 feet apart in a row. Tissue culture plants should be set after the last frost in spring.

ORDER HARVEST SUPPLIES. Determine your needs and order you supplies now. If you are picking into clamshell containers, a “low profile” container is best, you are limited in the amount of berries that you stack on one another.

NC CERTIFIED BLACKBERRY NURSERY. At the present time, one certified grower in North Carolina has obtained a license to propagate cultivars from the Arkansas breeding program which are the major cultivars grown in North Carolina and in the region:

Barbara Jones
Jones Farm
7094 Honeysuckle Ln
Bailey, NC 27807
Home: 252 235 3248
Home fax: 252 235 0155
Mobile: 252 399 9844
Jim Mobile 252 230 2084
jonesfamsnc@aol.com

CHEMICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Agricultural Chemical recommendations for North and South Carolina can be found at the addresses listed below.

North Carolina:

<http://ipm.ncsu.edu/agchem/agchem.html>

South Carolina:

<http://cufan.clemson.edu/pmguide/>

Pesticide News

Rovral no longer available for blueberry growers

Guido Schnabel
Clemson University

Due to extensive amount of damage to blueberry blossoms and foliage following application of Rovral, Bayer CropScience cancelled the label for blueberries. The move comes after blueberry growers from Georgia experienced damage to several hundreds of acres of blueberries.

The cancellation should not pose any serious threats to the southeastern blueberry industry. Rovral was primarily used for control of grey mold, also known as Botrytis Fruit Rot. The disease can be effectively controlled with other fungicides available to growers such as Pristine, Elevate, Captevate and Switch.

Captevate 68WDG, a new fungicide for berry diseases

Guido Schnabel
Clemson University

Captevate 68WDG is a mixture of Elevate and Captan and is marketed by Arvesta Corp. The new product is labeled for Gray mold, Mummy-berry and Anthracnose control in blueberries and Gray mold and Anthracnose control in strawberries. PHI is 0 days, REI is 24 hrs for strawberries and 72 hrs for blueberries.

This product is probably best used for grey mold control because of the Elevate component. The Captan component may provide some activity for Anthracnose. However, if a grower experiences serious Anthracnose problems in strawberries, we strongly recommend using primarily the QoI fungicides, such as Pristine, Quadris or Cabrio.

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