



## Special Reports

*Clopyr AG Herbicide is Available for Use in South Carolina Strawberry Fields*

## Bramble Chores

*Fall 2007*

## Quarterly Strawberry Plasticulture Checklist

*Fall (September-November)*

## Special Reports:

### Clopyr AG Herbicide is Available for Use in South Carolina Strawberry Fields

Wayne Mitchem

Weed control in South Carolina strawberry fields will be easier in 2008 because Clopyr AG has been approved for broadleaf weed control in plasticulture and matted row strawberry plantings. Clopyr AG contains clopyralid which is the same active ingredient in the herbicide Stinger. Although Stinger has been registered for use on strawberry plantings in North Carolina, Georgia, and other states for several years, it has not been registered for use in South Carolina because it's manufacturer was unresponsive to a South Carolina label. When United Phosphorus was approached by extension personnel, regarding the desire of South Carolina strawberry growers to have a strawberry label for Clopyr AG, the company went right to work and was able to obtain a label within weeks of the request.

Clopyr AG will control curly dock, clovers (white, red, hop, etc.) dandelion, groundsel, prickly lettuce, and vetch. It may be applied to strawberry plants grown in either a perennial system (matted row) or an annual system (plasticulture). Clopyr AG should not be applied in combination with other pesticides and DO NOT use a surfactant. The pre-harvest interval for Clopyr AG on strawberries is 30 days.

#### Restrictions for Perennial Production Systems

Apply only 1/3 pt/acre in spring  
Post-harvest application rate can be 1/3 to 2/3 pt/acre  
2 applications per year so long as total use does not exceed 2/3 pt/acre

#### Restrictions for Annual Production Systems

Use rate over the top of the strawberry plants is 1/3 to 1/2 pt/acre  
Use rate for application to the row middle is 1/3 to 2/3 pt/acre

2 applications per year so long as total use does not exceed 2/3 pt/acre  
Do not apply as a broadcast application

Click [here](#) to view Clopyr AG label.

### Matrix FNV: A New Herbicide for Vineyards

W.E. Mitchem

The EPA recently approved Matrix FNV for use in grape vineyards. The regulatory agency in North Carolina has approved this use and agencies in Georgia and South Carolina are reviewing the state registration packages now. Approval in Georgia and South Carolina is expected soon. Matrix contains rimsulfuron which is a sulfonylurea herbicide that is the first of this herbicide family to be cleared for use in grapes. Sulfonylurea herbicides have favorable environmental profiles and the registration of Matrix introduces a unique mode of action that has not previously been used in fruit plantings that will aid resistance management plans in vineyards and other fruit crops.

Matrix has been evaluated in university trials for several years. It adds several things to weed control programs that growers may find very useful. The addition of Matrix to glyphosate or paraquat greatly improves postemergence henbit control. Paraquat and glyphosate have some difficulty with henbit especially when it is gets some size to it but is not yet flowering. Matrix provides good postemergence control of common purslane which has been an issue for grape growers utilizing a total postemergence approach towards controlling vineyard weeds. It will aid in resistance management for postemergence horseweed control and has postemergence activity on fleabane, dandelion (<6" diam), and mallow. At the 4 oz/acre rate Matrix provides preemergence weed control. Matrix is very effective on pigweeds and spurge. Pigweeds can break through simazine about 6 weeks or so after application. The addition of

Matrix to simazine will extend residual control several weeks. Neither Karmex nor Simazine effectively control spotted spurge however Matrix provides good preemergence spotted spurge control. One additional note is it has some activity on yellow nutsedge as well. Although it may not provide total control it is better than other currently registered options.

Click [here](#) to view Matrix FNV label.

## Blueberry Training a Success

Tom Monaco  
Coordinator, Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium

The SRSFC organized blueberry workshop agent training held June 19-21, 2007 at the Duplin County Center, Kenansville, NC was very well attended. Thirty officially registered for the workshop. These included 24 county agents from the five member states, a few faculty and graduate students, and one representative from the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The SRSFC, the NC Blueberry Council, Dole Food Company, DuPont, Valent, Gowan, BASF, and Brandt Consolidated sponsored the workshop. Bill Cline of NC State University developed the agenda for the training.



*Jim Ballington covers blueberry breeding, genetics and future trends on the first day of the workshop. Photo courtesy of Bill Cline.*

The program consisted of classroom instruction and field tours over the three-day period. The workshop began mid day on June 19 in the auditorium of the Duplin County Center with presentations by Bill Cline(overview of the blueberry industry in the southeastern U.S.), Jim Ballington(blueberry breeding in NC), Guido van der Hoeven(investment

analysis for blueberry production in southeastern U.S.) and Katie Jennings(weed management) all from NC State University.

The next day June 20 included classroom instruction in the morning and a field tour. Two blueberry experts from the University of Georgia highlighted the morning program with presentations. Scott NeSmith reported on the status of his blueberry breeding program in Georgia and Gerard Krewer summarized blueberry cultural practices for the southern U.S and potential for organic production. Disease identification and control was presented by Bill Cline and insects pests of blueberry was covered by John Meyer.



*Participants visited a commercial blueberry packing facility in Bladen County. Photo courtesy of Maria Ignosh*

The field tour that afternoon gave the participants an opportunity to see site selection and preparation; overhead and drip irrigation systems; effects of the 2007 Easter freeze on the NC crop; summer pruning; weed, disease and insect pests at harvest; mechanical harvesting and equipment for processing; and hand-harvest and fresh packing.



*Freshly-packed NC blueberries ready for market. Photo courtesy of Bill Whittle.*

The field visit on the morning of June 21 was at the NC State Horticultural Crops Research Station in Castle Hayne to tour field, greenhouse and lath house facilities; pick late-ripening highbush and early-ripening rabbiteye cultivars; learn to identify fruit rot

fungi and other diseases; learn to identify insect pests and the damage they cause; and blueberry propagation procedures and breeding techniques.



*Agents learned to diagnose blueberry diseases.  
Photo courtesy of Tom Stebbins.*



*Evidence of the devastating 2007 Easter Freeze was visible as "frost rings" on damaged fruit.  
Photo courtesy of Leslie Blischak.*

The training was very well received by the agents. Evaluations of the training by participants can be viewed in the [attachment](#). All the presentations given at the workshop can be viewed on the SRSFC web site at <http://www.smallfruits.org/CoAgentTraining/BlueberryWorkshopJune2007.html>



*Getting to know agents from other states was of great benefit to all. Photo courtesy of Leslie Blischak.*



*Early on the final day, agents gathered at the NCSU Ideal Tract blueberry farm to view cultivars and cultural practices first-hand. Photo courtesy of Tom Stebbins.*

## **North Carolina Commercial Blackberry and Raspberry Growers Association Formed**

Tom Monaco

A group of North Carolina growers in Cleveland and Lincoln Counties met the evening of September 19 in Vale NC to discuss the formation of an association for blackberry and raspberry growers in the region. What prompted the creation of this association is the recent blackberry plantings in the two counties located in the foothills of NC (Figures 1, 2 and 3). Approximately 100 acres of thornless blackberries have been planted in 2007 with more planned for 2008. Nearly all the acreage is under contract with SunnyRidge Farm, Inc. located in Winterhaven, Florida. All this recent acreage has been planted to the Navaho and Ouachita thornless varieties



**Figure 1.** Crotts Farm, Lincoln County



**Figure 2.** Brown Farm, Lincoln County



**Figure 3.** Houser Farm, Lincoln County

Daniel Houser (Figure 4) of Vale, Lincoln County, was elected president of the new association and this is his first year growing blackberries with approximately 10 acres planted. Daniel and his father have been in the produce business for several years. Ervin Lineberger (Figure 5) of Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, was elected vice president. Ervin owns and operates Killdeer Farms and has been growing blackberries for over 20 years. He marketed his blackberries through SunnyRidge this year. He is expanding his plantings with several acres planted in 2007 with more planned for 2008.



**Figure 4.** Daniel Houser, President, NC Commercial Blackberry and Raspberry Growers Association



**Figure 5.** Ervin Lineberger, President, NC Commercial Blackberry and Raspberry Growers Association

Other officers elected include Don Justus, Secretary; Jeff Crotts, Treasurer; and Richard Carver, Industry Representative. Ex Officio members include Wayne Mitchem, Daniel Shires, Josh Beam and Diane Ducharme. The contact person for the association is Wayne Mitchem, 400 David Chapel Church Road, Vale, NC 28168 phone 704 276-1584, email [wayne\\_mitchem@ncsu.edu](mailto:wayne_mitchem@ncsu.edu).

### **Bramble Chores Fall 2007**

Gina Fernandez  
NC State University, Raleigh, NC

#### *Plant growth and development*

- √ Primocanes continue to growth but slow down
- √ Flower buds start to form
- √ Primocane leaves senesce late fall

#### *Pruning and trellising*

- √ Spent floricanes should be removed asap

- √ Optimal time to prune is after the coldest part of the season is over. However pruning can start in late fall if plantings are large (late winter for smaller plantings).
- √ Start trellis repairs after plants have defoliated

*Weed management*

- √ Many summer weed problems can be best managed in the fall and winter using preemergent herbicides. Determine what weeds have been or could be a problem in your area. Check with your states agricultural chemical manual and local extension agent for the best labeled chemicals to control these weeds.

*Insect and disease scouting*

Continue scouting for insects and diseases. Remove damaged canes as soon as possible.

- √ Check the Southern Regional Bramble integrated Management Guide for recommendations  
<http://www.smallfruits.org/SmallFruitsRegGuide/Guides/2006/BrambleSprayGuide61506.pdf>

*Planting*

- √ growers in warmer areas (e.g. extreme southeastern NC) can plant in December. Preparations for winter planting should have already been made. If you have questions about winter planting please contact me at the above email address.
- √ Prepare list of cultivars for next years new plantings.

*Fertilizer*

- √ Take soil tests to determine fertility needs for spring plantings.

*Marketing and miscellaneous*

- √ Order containers for next season
- √ Make contacts for selling fruit next season
- √ Plan on attending the North American Bramble Growers Association meeting. ([www.nabga.com](http://www.nabga.com)) For more information contact:

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## Quarterly Strawberry Plasticulture Checklist

**This checklist was originally developed for growers in North Carolina. You will have to adjust your work activities either earlier or later depending on your location.**

Gina Fernandez

Fall (September-November)

- Fumigate (or apply compost) early Sept in NC, and put down plastic
- Plant ryegrass in aisles (1 bu/acre) before you punch holes in plastic
- Plant in October (most of NC), use overhead irrigation as needed for plugs or fresh dug plants (see
- Check for dead plants and reset asap
- Watch for pest injury, including deer
- Fall irrigate only if soil is dry
- Hand weed emerging winter weeds
- Watch for pest injury, including deer
- Fall irrigate only if soil is dry
- Consider placing row covers on plants first 10 days of Nov. for additional flower development this fall and higher yields next spring (optional) apply beneficial mites shortly after planting
- Inspect plants late fall and winter for crown development, you should see 2-3 crowns by December in a normal year
- Protect plants and plastic from deer

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**Editor and Contributor.....Tom Monaco**

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