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Berry News

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Final Eastern NY Commercial Berry Newsletter for the 2013 Season

As the season winds down, we would like to thank you for your allowing us to tramp through your farms on a weekly basis, checking SWD traps and other berry related activities. Also, we'd like to express our gratitude to all of those growers that have participated in research projects, both completed, ongoing and as of yet, unfunded! We look forward to working with you for the remainder of 2013 and in 2014.

We hope that many of you will take advantage of the numerous educational opportunities that are available during this winter's meeting season. We won't be present at all of them, but we do expect to attend many of the meetings as presenters or assistants. Of particular interest is the NARBA (North American Raspberry and Blackberry Association) meeting that is being held in conjunction with the Mid-Atlantic EXPO in Hershey PA this year. This national meeting is a great opportunity to get research information from all over the continent – and the trade show at Hershey is also excellent.

Thanks again for your contributions to our efforts. We hope that the expanded Eastern NY program has served you well in this first year. - Laura and Jim

SWD Continue to Plague Growers

Despite earlier cool fall temperatures than we saw last year, Spotted Wing Drosophila are still present in numbers high enough to be a real problem for many growers – particular U-Pick operations. Many U-Pick farms across the region have been forced to close already due to infestation levels higher than they are comfortable with. Home gardeners have been calling with questions and reports, so we know that SWD has been active and populations are heavy. Traps in southern Rensselaer county are still revealing very high levels of adults, despite cool weather. This also resulted in early September raspberry harvest being heavily infested – sometimes despite weekly pesticide applications – although growers that have been picking very clean AND spraying have seen a significantly lower incidence of infestation. It seems likely that when adult populations were very high and the weather conditions were perfect (ie slightly cooler in the 70's with increased humidity from rainfall) conditions were ideal for egg laying in the berries. Day neutral strawberry growers are seeing low levels of infestation and clean picking and fruit removal may be helping with that result.



September 10th meeting focused on SWD research in eastern NY. Here the group is discussing an exclusion netting trial at HayBerry Farm in Hoosick Falls, NY. The work was funded by a NE SARE Farmer grant. Note bird net and landscape cloth mulch in planting.

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SWD Continue to Plague Growers, continued from page 1

Still – I think growers region wide can say that this year saw significantly better control than last year – primarily due to a much more aggressive approach to management. Kudos to you! This is an extremely difficult pest and some of you have already decided it doesn't pay to grow certain berry crops. For those of you that remain in the

game – the extra effort and money involved with managing just SWD puts a real burden on growing premium berries. That translates to improving overall yield and thus better attention to fertility, weed management and other pest problems. Job security folks – it doesn't get any better than this!

Value Added Food Product Survey – We Need Your Input!!

Cornell Cooperative Extension Capital Area Agricultural and Horticultural Program has prepared an online survey to gauge the interest of farmers and others in producing a value added food product. Senior Resource Educator, Steve Hadcock, has worked with others in New York State to gauge the interest and needs of individuals for making value added food products.

The survey can be completed at https://cornell.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_cMRXDYQR38ncezr. Hadcock shared that the survey should only take five to ten minutes to complete and will be of great value to existing and potential value added centers in the state. Please complete by October 15th. For more information: Steve Hadcock seh11@cornell.edu.

Use of Glyphosate (Roundup) to Control Field Bindweed in Blackberries

By Mark Bolda, Steve Fennimore and Patrick Kingston, University of California at Davis Berry Extension Program, posted on September 11, 2013 on the California Caneberry and Strawberry Research blog

Editors Note: Although much about NE berry cultural systems differ from California production, the problems associated with noxious perennial weeds like bindweed are the same. Misery loves company, but insights into control might also prevent misery! And fall is the BEST time to control these persistent weed pests. Please also remember that raspberry sensitivity to glyphosate is much greater than blackberries, and thus should be treated with much more care during application.

Field bindweed, *Convolvulus arvensis*, also known locally as morning glory, is a persistent weed pest in blackberries grown on the Central Coast of the California. Much of this stems from the long period of time between plant establishment and final removal of the crop some five to six years later.

While cultivation of the aisles between the hedgerows is successful in keeping the field clear of most weeds, field bindweed is another matter. Not only does field bindweed establish very deep root systems which frustrate control by cultivation, but the lengthy vines of this plant grow into the hedgerow and even up onto the plants themselves (Photo 1). Spray applications of translocated herbicides like Roundup are risky due to sensitivity of blackberry to spray drift. For this reason we have selected ropewick application methods to reduce the possibility of spray drift and crop injury.

The study described here is an experiment of two methods of wick applications of glyphosate (Roundup). One method, pictured below, is of a ropewick applicator (Photo 2) which applies a 33% volume per volume (v/v) dilution of formulated



Photo 1: Blackberry hedgerow totally overgrown with field bindweed.



Photo 2: Demonstration of ropewick applicator. Roundup mix, stored in handle, seeps out rope at bottom of applicator.



Photo 3: Field bindweed plants two weeks after having been treated with Roundup saturated sponges clipped onto individual leaves.

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Use of Glyphosate (Roundup) to Control Field Bindweed in Blackberries, continued from page 2

product through the ropewick applicator directly to the bindweed leaves by briefly passing over the area in a purposeful back and forth swinging motion. The second method, used occasionally on woody vines which die slowly, was to clip approximately 1"x1" sponges soaked with a 33% v/v dilution of formulated product with colorful refrigerator magnet clips to individual bindweed leaves (Photo 3). In both cases, great care was taken to avoid contact with blackberry plant parts, especially canes hanging down close to the ground. Please note – blackberry is very sensitive to Roundup (Photo 7) and contact with foliage must be absolutely avoided.



Photo 4: Blackberry primocane in midst of glyphosate killed bindweed. Plant was not touched by the



Photo 5: Roundup treated area two weeks post-application.

As can be seen from the pictures below (Photos 4, 5 and 6), after two weeks both methods are quite effective in controlling field bindweed in blackberries. It should be noted that the clip method, while quite effective in controlling field bindweed, is far more time consuming than the ropewick applicator and not recommended.



Photo 6: Bindweed vine arising from plants treated by ropewick application interspersed among healthy blackberry canes.

It is lastly important to note that regular retreatment of the field bindweed especially in the fall will be more successful with the ropewick method described here. One should treat regularly but not too frequently and every month to six weeks should work. Let the bindweed regrow some, since it is going into the fall and it is storing starch reserves for its roots. As the bindweed makes sugars in its leaves it is sending that sugar downward into its roots deep in the ground, and this is the time to send some glyphosate into those roots. These roots are the bindweed wheelhouse and this is where to hit it where it hurts. The use of glyphosate (Roundup) is

extensively written about in this article. Before using any of these products, consult product labels for current status of product registration, restrictions, and use information.

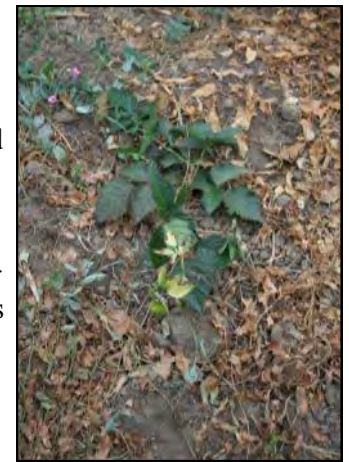


Photo 7: Glyphosate damage on blackberry - very sensitive.

Prepare to Mulch Strawberries

Straws from wheat or other grains are applied as mulch when soil temperature has consistently dropped below 40°F. This usually happens in late November, although southern locations might not see these temperatures until early-mid-December. This winter cover prevents winter heaving and crown desiccation.

Level plantings with no raised beds, require 2.5 to 3 tons of straw per acre – about 150 40 lb. small square bales. This will result in a 2-3" layer across the planting. Raised beds could require twice as much mulch because of the tendency for the straw to drift into the alleys. If you have small acreage, then applying mulch by hand is the way to go – just shake it out evenly over the plants. If you have large acreage, you will want to use a bale chopper. Keep an eye on the most windswept areas of your field and replace the mulch if it has blown off.

Mulch should be removed in the spring when new green tissue just begins to show. Rake the mulch into the rows.

If you want to move your production back, you can do this by delaying mulch removal, but your yield may be compromised – although this year those that kept the mulch on – regardless of hot temperatures actually avoided blossom freeze damage.

After straw mulch is removed many growers use floating row covers as spring frost protection strategy. These spun-bonded materials allow light and water to pass through but provide several degrees of temperature buffer – depending upon their weight. Heavy weight row covers (1.25 oz/yd² or 42 g/m²) can also be useful for winter protection of strawberry plantings. Anchor the row cover with rocks or other weights. Many growers are using a combination of straw and floating row covers, particularly those that are trying to winter a day neutral strawberry planting. You will want plenty of help and a still day to apply this mulch effectively. -LGM

Workplace CSA's – A New Model for Local Food Distribution

Despite a confirmed interest in locally grown food, consumers still purchase produce at grocery stores even though our region boasts an abundance of Farmers' Markets and farm stands. Let's face it – people go to the grocery store because it's easy. So how to make purchasing locally grown produce easier?

Many of our readers may have heard of the project that CCE was involved in during 2012. With the help of a Cornell Small Farms grant, CCE and Adirondack Harvest worked together to investigate the potential in a new food distribution model – that of delivering Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) “shares” directly to local worksites. The project sought to inform employers mindful of wellness initiatives, about the feasibility of sponsoring a CSA. Ongoing health promotion efforts set the stage for increasing consumption of locally grown produce while also helping farmers develop non-traditional markets. In case you weren't aware of the link between increased consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables, please take a moment to read about a brand new health initiative in NYC <http://news92fm.com/370085/hospitals-prescribing-fruits-veggies-for-wellness/>.

Suffice to say that the project was very successful, and now there are several farms offering Worksite CSA distribution in the Capital district, lower Hudson Valley and northern NY. Many of these farms have had to alter their traditional CSA protocol – for instance one farmer is offering ‘free choice’ shares and even customizable shares using Farmigo (www.farmigo.com) software to help them meet the individual needs of the consumer.



Juniper Hill Farm employee stands in Tribune Media parking lot prior to CSA share distribution day.

“There are a lot of businesses out there, and there are a lot of farmers. It's a perfect match up,” said Adam Hainer, co-owner of Juniper Hill Farm in Westport, NY who was involved in the initial project and has since expanded his Worksite CSA market avenue almost three fold. “We wanted to increase the CSA component of our market, but because of our location we weren't seeing much growth,” said Hainer. “We had to make it more convenient. We needed to make a decision to get more food to more people.” Adam decided that for the first few years he would allow companies that had a minimum of 10 subscribers to be a drop-off location IF there were other businesses contributing to at least 50 total subscribers for a single day delivery. The other requirement is that each business had to have an on-site coordinator to act as the liaison between the farmer and the consumer or the employer. This position proved to be critical – especially during the first season. “There were some problems” said Hainer, “like what to do with a share if an employee was sick – or forgot that they were going on vacation. The coordinator really helped iron out those wrinkles.”

The initial project surveyed subscribers and found that a majority of customers understood that the products delivered exceeded grocery store products in both value and quality. 100% of the respondents said that their consumption of fresh vegetables increased as a result of being a CSA member and 77.8% indicated that they would definitely join a CSA in the future. Some of the comments included, “Very convenient, drop off at work. I loved the variety and being able to choose from veggies that I wouldn't ordinarily purchase in the store” and “I was surprised at the high quality of the product and the abundance”.

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WORKPLACE CSA TIMELINE
 CSA, “Community Supported Agriculture”, is a subscription service provided by the farmer.

ESTABLISH CUSTOMERS

- February: Membership fees are paid at the beginning of the growing season
- March: Approach businesses to market subscriptions – the earlier the better!
- April: Receive payment early in the season, which helps with the farm's cash flow

PRODUCE PROVIDED TO CUSTOMERS EACH WEEK

- May: Members are provided fresh, seasonal produce every week.
- June: Sales and delivery only take a few hours each week
- July: Establish a lasting relationship with your customers.
- August: Consider inviting subscribers to an on-farm event later in the season.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CHECK OUT THESE WEBSITES
www.cce.cornell.edu/
<http://smallfarms.cornell.edu/>
<http://localharvest.org/csa/>
www.adirondackharvest.com/

OTHER CONTACTS
 Contact your local Cornell Cooperative Extension office

DEVELOPING A WORKPLACE CSA FARMER GUIDELINES

Cornell University Cooperative Extension
 Adirondack Harvest

Find the brochure above at <http://smallfarms.cornell.edu/files/2012/03/draftBrochures-CSAWorkplace-1q8ccc8.pdf>

Workplace CSAs-Workplace Distribution, continued from page 4

Cara Fraver of Quincy Farm in Easton, offered CSA shares at a local YMCA, but reports hitting “a block with liability and corporate rules prohibiting contracting with just one vendor. We might be able to overcome that if we had the passionate employee that could act as our coordinator and advocate”.

Still other farmers have been able to arrange such positive contracts as Payroll deduction for the employee shares and also Kilpatrick Family Farm in Middle Granville is delivering CSA shares in lieu of land rent to a small manufacturing firm in town.

A big hurdle is a lack of recognition on the part of corporate Wellness Policies about the direct health benefit

of increased consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables. This was also mentioned as an impediment by a representative of Philadelphia’s Common Market. Common Market is a company that provides the infrastructure to connect public and private schools, hospitals, universities, grocery stores and workplaces to food grown by farmers in the Mid-Atlantic region. <http://commonmarketphila.org/> As Adam Hainer points out, “If companies are offering free memberships to gyms, why not access to a Worksite CSA?”

For more information on the Worksite CSA project, and to download free informational brochures for employer and farmer training, visit the Cornell Small Farms website at: <http://smallfarms.cornell.edu/projects/grants/>.

Are You Receiving the New York Berry News?

If you are a berry grower in New York State, you should be receiving the New York Berry News! This monthly newsletter is offered, free of charge, to all growers in NYS. It is supported by Cornell University berry research and extension faculty and it is compiled by Cathy Heidenreich. The newsletter is only available in a digital format, but if you don’t have a high speed connection you can download the text only format in just a few minutes.

For a peek at the most recent issue, September 2013, visit <http://www.fruit.cornell.edu/nybn/>. To get a monthly email when the newsletter is ready, please contact Cathy Heidenreich at mcm4@cornell.edu. If you were previously subscribed but haven’t received it in a while, perhaps your email has changed and an update message needs to be sent to Cathy. There is no formal enrollment process for the email, so it’s all up to you!



Organic Cover Crop Workshop and Tour Thursday Oct. 17, 10am - 4pm

USDA-NRCS Big Flats Plant Materials Center, 3266 Route 352, Big Flats, NY 14814

This workshop will feature speakers from Cornell University presenting in depth information on cover cropping and reduced tillage for vegetable growers with an emphasis on organic systems and will also include nitrogen cycling and a soil ecology overview. There will be a tour of the time of seeding cover crop demonstration with single and multiple species of cover crops, reduced tillage tools and a row crop interseeder. Lunch available for \$12.00 and CCA credits available

For a detailed schedule, speakers, topics and tour sites go to <http://www.nofany.org/events/field-days/organic-cover-crop-workshop-and-tour> or contact Paul Salon, USDA-NRCS, 607-562-8404, paul.salon@ny.usda.gov.

Register online at <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=7ex5qzeab&oeidk=a07e7j0eqy23d4363df>



Calendar of Events

December 3-6, 2013 – Joint North Carolina Strawberry Growers Association and North American Strawberry Growers Association Conference, Sheraton Imperial Hotel, Durham, North Carolina. Workshops on Dec. 3, full-day farm tour on Dec. 4, and educational sessions and trade show Dec. 5-6. For more information call 919-542-4037 or visit www.ncstrawberry.com.

December 10-12, 2013. Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable and Farm Market EXPO and Michigan Greenhouse Growers Expo. More information: <http://www.glexpo.com/>.

December 17-19, 2013 – New England Vegetable & Fruit Conference. Radisson Hotel, 700 Elm St., Manchester NH. For more info <http://www.newenglandvfc.org/>.

January 21-13, 2014 – Empire State Producers EXPO, Syracuse, NY. More details soon.

January 24-26, 2014 – NOFA-NY Annual Winter Conference, Saratoga Springs, NY. <http://www.nofany.org/?q=events/winter-conference>

January 28-30, 2014. Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention and the 2014 North American Raspberry and Blackberry Conference. Hershey, PA. <http://www.raspberryblackberry.com/>

February 13, 21014 – Hudson Valley Berry Meeting, Kingston. <http://hudsonvf.cce.cornell.edu/>

June 18-25, 2015 – 11th International Rubus & Ribes Symposium, in Asheville, NC, June 21-25, with preconference tour to farms and research sites June 18-20. More info to come. If you are interested in being a sponsor of this event, contact gina_fernandez@ncsu.edu.

Weekly and Seasonal Weather Information

| Site | Growing Degree Information Base 50° F | | | Rainfall Accumulations | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|--|---|--|
| | 2013 Weekly Total 9/18—9/24 | 2013 Season Total 3/1 - 9/24 | 2012 Total 3/1—9/24 | 2013 Weekly Rainfall 9/18—9/24 (inches) | 2013 Season Rainfall 3/1—9/24 (inches) | 2012 Total Rainfall 3/1—9/24 (inches) |
| Albany | 57.9 | 2464.5 | 2913.7 | 0.69 | 26.07 | 24.53 |
| Castleton | 53.6 | 2360.3 | 3026.2 | 0.54 | 24.92 | 22.35 |
| Chazy | 55.9 | 2220.6 | 2937.7 | 0.25 | 23.53 | 18.43 |
| Clifton Park | 50.7 | 2433.3 | 2837.3 | 0.58 | 28.00 | 26.47 |
| Clintondale | 65.5 | 2761.6 | 2268.0 | NA | NA | NA |
| Glens Falls | 35.4 | 2110.7 | 2515.6 | 0.58 | 20.80 | 19.01 |
| Granville | NA | NA | 2658.5 | NA | NA | 25.08 |
| Guilderland | NA | 2186.3 | 2674.0 | NA | 7.23 | 8.50 |
| Highland | 60.0 | 2729.3 | 2969.9 | 0.53 | 22.90 | 26.62 |
| Lake Placid | 23.1 | 1417.5 | NA | 0.19 | 24.36 | NA |
| Montgomery | 55.1 | 2848.5 | 2695.0 | 0.55 | 24.55 | NA |
| Monticello | 32.4 | 1939.4 | 2493.5 | 0.00 | 0.28 | 2.68 |

Cornell Cooperative Extension and the staff assume no liability for the effectiveness of results of any chemicals for pesticide use. No endorsement of any product is made or implied. Every effort has been made to provide correct, complete, and current pesticide recommendations. Nevertheless, changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly and human errors are still possible. These recommendations are not substitutes for pesticide labeling. Please read the label before applying any pesticide. Where trade names are used, no discrimination is intended and no endorsement is implied by Cornell Cooperative Extension. *CCE provides equal program and employment opportunities.*