

# Cornell Berry Production Workshop

*Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>*

*CCE Saratoga County  
50 West High Street, Ballston Spa, NY 12020*

## Agenda

**9:00 – 9:15 Welcome, NYSBGA intro**

**9:15 – 10:00 (45 Mins) Using Soil Health Information as a Tool to Address Berry Nutrition** - Dr. Marvin Pritts, Professor, Horticulture Section, School of Integrative Plant Science, Cornell University

This session will discuss soil health in terms of perennial and semi-perennial berry crops. Soil management in terms of biological, chemical and physical characteristics, how to examine those characteristics and steps you can take to improve upon them will be covered. Impact of soil health on overall berry plant vigor, ability to resist pest pressure and productivity will be discussed.

**10:00 – 10:30 (30 Mins) Using low tunnels for fall production of strawberries** - Dr. Marvin Pritts, Professor, Horticulture Section, School of Integrative Plant Science, Cornell University

In ongoing research, low tunnels are proving to be an excellent way to limit the spread of disease and improve overall productivity. This session will explain the findings.

**10:30-10:55 (25 Mins) Identifying Disease in Berry Crops** - Dr. Kerik Cox, Assoc. Professor, Dept. of Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology, Cornell University

Identification of disease is the first step in a good pest management program. This talk will focus on some of the most common diseases and how to discern one from another.

**10:55 – 11:05 Break**

**11:05 – 11:30 (25 Mins) Strawberry Varieties** - Dr. Courtney Weber, Associate Professor, Horticulture Section, School of Integrative Plant Science, Cornell University

Characteristics of berry varieties, especially disease resistance, are important considerations when choosing plants. Dr. Weber will summarize the pros and cons of new and older strawberries.

**11:30 – 11:55 (25 Mins) Top Three Insect Pests for Strawberry, Raspberry and Blueberries: and how to identify them** - Dr. Greg Loeb, Professor, Dept. of Entomology, Cornell University

Each berry crop has a number of specific insect and mite pests. The life cycles and best management varies. Dr. Loeb will discuss the top 3 from each category of berry crops.

**11:55 – 12:20 (25 Mins) Raspberry Varieties** - Dr. Courtney Weber, Associate Professor, Horticulture Section, School of Integrative Plant Science, Cornell University

Characteristics of berry varieties, especially disease resistance – and in the case of Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD control) – time of bearing, are important considerations when choosing plants. Dr. Weber will summarize the pros and cons of new and older raspberry varieties.

**12:20 – 1:00 LUNCH**

**1:00 – 1:25 (25 Mins) Managing Diseases in Small Fruit Plantings** - Dr. Kerik Cox, Assoc. Professor, Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology Section, School of Integrative Plant Science, Cornell University

Disease management is a challenge made more difficult when considering the prospect of fungicide resistance. Management of diseases in a way that will help growers avoid resistance will be covered.

**1:25 – 1:50 (25 Mins) Managing Insects in Small Fruit Plantings** - Dr. Greg Loeb, Professor, Dept. of Entomology, Cornell University

Insect management is a challenge made more difficult when considering the prospect of insecticide resistance – especially in the advent of SWD. Successful insect management while limiting resistance will be the focus of this discussion.

**1:50 – 2:20 (30 Mins) Berry pruning: an effective way to control pests and promote productivity** – Laura McDermott, CCE ENYCHP

Raspberries and blueberries need annual pruning to retain vigor and help control pest problems. With both of these crops pruning is a substantial part of the cultural control of SWD.

**2:20 Adjourn formal DEC portion of meeting**

**2:20 – 2:45 – Travel to Optional Pruning Demo\***

**2:45 – 3:30 – Pruning Demo**

**3:30 Depart for home**

\* timing contingent on finding a grower agreeable to host within a 15 minute drive. I have one in mind that would be on the way home for faculty, but it isn't mandatory that they attend.