

North Carolina Blueberry News



VOLUME 6, NUMBER 4

DECEMBER 15, 2001



**North Carolina
Cooperative Extension Service**
NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES

A newsletter for commercial blueberry producers, edited by specialists and agents of the NC Cooperative Extension Service and supported by the NC Blueberry Council, Inc.

to expect. If you will not be able to attend the open house but would like to continue to receive membership benefits (a copy of the meeting proceedings, blueberry newsletter, other mailings) please be sure to send in your membership fee. See the enclosed registration form for details.

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USACBC ASSESSMENT PAYMENTS DUE DEC 31

In 2001, the Blueberry Promotion, Research and Information Order was voted into effect by growers of cultivated blueberry across the US (See *NC Blueberry News* 4:2, 5:5). The newly established USA Cultivated Blueberry Council (USACBC) will assess growers on all cultivated blueberries produced in the US or imported into the US. Assessment payments are now due from all growers and importers at a rate of \$12.00 per ton. If you market more than 2,000 lbs of blueberries annually and have not received the *First Handler and Grower/Handler Report Form* or if you have questions about the assessment, call the USA Cultivated Blueberry Council at (916) 933-9399.



BLUEBERRY OPEN HOUSE JANUARY 31, 2002

*Bill Cline, Plant Pathology,
NCSU*

Mark your calendars now for the 36th Annual Open House of the North Carolina Blueberry

Council, Inc. to be held on January 31, 2002. As in recent years, the meeting will be held at the Powell-Melvin Agricultural Services Center in Elizabethtown, NC.

Meeting Registration Change: This year we would like to offer you the option of pre-registering for the meeting. This will relieve congestion at the registration desk and will give us a better idea of how many people

Payments are to be collected and submitted by the first handler (marketing organization) when berries are sold through a handler. If berries are marketed directly by the grower (U-pick operations, roadside stands, etc.) Then the grower should make payment directly to the USACBC. Beginning in 2002 the assessment will be due on November 30. For this year only, the USACBC has extended the payment due date by 30 days, to Dec 31, 2001. Beginning January 1, 2002, the USACBC

will levy a one-time late payment charge of 5% and an interest charge of 1% monthly.

BLUEBERRY MAGGOT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Logan Williams, Entomologist, NCDA&CS

This is to inform you that Lloyd Garcia has taken a position with the USDA and is no longer with the NCDA&CS. Effective September 3, I was hired to replace Lloyd as the staff entomologist and will be working with the Blueberry Maggot Certification Program. I look forward to working with blueberry growers. I am in the process of printing new stickers for the growers who need them, and I ask for your help in supplying me with any names and addresses of new growers who may need certificates next year (Certification is required for shipment of blueberries into Canada). My telephone number is (919) 733-6932. Please contact me by Jan 5th. If I am not available, my office assistant Renee Kornegay can assist you. Thanks for any help you can offer.

NABC 2001 CROP ESTIMATE

(Cultivated blueberries, millions of pounds)

Region	1999 Final	2000 Final	2001 Estimate		
	Total	Total	Fresh	Processed	Total
Michigan	65.0	62.0	20.0	43.5	63.5
Indiana	2.8	2.5	0.9	0.6	1.5
New Jersey	36.0	32.0	28.5	6.5	35.0
British Columbia	32.5	41.7	16.5	21.0	37.5
North Carolina	13.0	18.0	9.5	3.5	13.0
Washington	11.1	13.2	2.0	10.0	12.0
Oregon	22.0	28.8	9.0	15.0	24.0
Georgia	8.4	18.0	6.0	11.0	17.0
Florida	0.9	2.1	2.2	0.0	2.2

MS/LA/AR & others	7.9	8.4	5.0	3.0	8.0
Ontario	1.8	1.3	1.0	0.0	1.0
Highbush Total	201.4	228.0	100.6	104.1	214.7

(Source: North American Blueberry Council)

BLUEBERRY VIRUS SURVEY

Phil Brannen, Plant Pathology, Univ. of Georgia

Bill Cline, Plant Pathology, NCSU

Blueberry virus diseases can cause severe crop losses in northern states but have never been considered a serious problem in the southeastern US. However, blueberry shoestring virus and strawberry latent virus were identified from Georgia plantings in 2000, and at the same time we received a report from the west coast of blueberry shoestring virus in nursery plants of Duplin, a recent NCSU release. Because of these reports and the associated risk, we conducted a preliminary survey of blueberry viruses during 2001.

Virus diseases are difficult to diagnose on symptoms alone, and host plants may be infected without showing symptoms. For this reason, enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) testing is preferred. A total of 93 samples were taken from apparently healthy bushes of newly released cultivars and from bushes with suspected virus symptoms, at various locations in NC and GA. Samples were collected in May and were sent overnight to Agdia, Inc. (Elkhart, IN). Every sample was tested for the presence of 16 viruses known to occur on blueberry.

None of the samples tested positive for any viruses. It may be that the symptoms observed were due to herbicide injury, insects, or some other cause. We will continue to monitor Duplin and other new releases with repeated virus testing through Agdia and other labs.

With new acreage of Duke and other northern cultivars planted in NC comes increased movement of plant material from northern nurseries. This creates potential for introduction of virus-infected material. Georgia and North Carolina are both at risk, but North Carolina is where we are most likely to see introduction of blueberry scorch or other viruses. Growers should purchase only

virus-tested plants from reputable nurseries. We will continue to test all new cultivar releases.

Efforts are under way to establish production of true-to-type, virus-indexed blueberry plants through the Micropropagation Unit at NCSU.

NORTH CAROLINA BLUEBERRY COUNCIL, INC.

36th ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

in cooperation with
North Carolina State University
January 31, 2002
Agricultural Services Center, Elizabethtown, NC

MORNING

9:00 REGISTRATION

- 9:30 WELCOME -- Martha Warner, Bladen County Extension Director**
- 9:40 NC 1567, A NEW RABBITEYE CULTIVAR RELEASE PROPOSED FOR 2002 -- Susan Rooks and Jim Ballington, Horticultural Science, NCSU**
- 10:00 EVALUATION OF RABBITEYE CULTIVARS FROM NORTH CAROLINA AND GEORGIA -- Mike Mainland, Horticultural Science, NCSU**
- 10:20 DISEASE, INSECT AND WEED CONTROL UPDATE -- Bill Cline, Plant Pathology; John Meyer, Entomology; and David Monks, Horticultural Science, NCSU**
- 11:00 THE MICROPROPAGATION UNIT AT NCSU AND POTENTIAL FOR TISSUE-CULTURED BLUEBERRIES -- Zvesdana Pesic-Van Esbroeck, Director, MPU, Plant Pathology, NCSU**
- 11:30 BLUEBERRY MARKETING IN 2001 AND PLANS FOR 2002 -- Laurie Wood, Marketing Specialist, NCDA&CS**
- 11:50 RECOGNITION OF GUESTS**

12:00 LUNCH AND SOCIAL TIME -- Please be sure to visit with equipment vendors!

AFTERNOON

- 1:30 IRRIGATION SCHEDULING FOR DROUGHT -- DECIDING WHEN -- Mike Mainland, Horticultural Science, NCSU**
- 2:00 UPDATING YOUR FRESH-PACK FACILITY -- Round table discussion of Food Safety, third-party inspection and AIB standards -- (Moderator and panel members to be announced)**
- 2:45 BUSINESS MEETING AND UPDATE ON THE USA CULTIVATED BLUEBERRY COUNCIL -- President Ralph Carter Jr., Presiding**

- 3:00 BREAK – Refreshments will be available and growers will again have the opportunity to visit with each other, equipment vendors, speakers, blueberry researchers and extension faculty**
- 3:15 SO YOU WANT TO BECOME A LICENSED PROPAGATOR -- POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR SALE OF NEW CULTIVAR RELEASES FROM NCSU -- Jim Ballington, Horticultural Science, NCSU**

GEORGIA BLUEBERRY CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW

The meeting will be held 11-12 Jan 2002, Civic Center, Savannah, in conjunction with the Ga. Fruit and Veg. Growers Meeting. For more information call 1-887-994-3842 or visit www.gfvga.org

This newsletter and other blueberry information is also available on-line at: <http://www.smallfruits.org>

ADVERTISING

Do you have blueberry plants or equipment for sale? Call (910) 675-2314 or e-mail (bill_cline@ncsu.edu) and we will list it in this newsletter -- There is no charge for this service!

BLUEBERRY PLANTS -- FINCH BLUEBERRY NURSERY, PO Box 699, Bailey, NC 27807. (252) 235-4664 or: 1 (800) 245-4662 -- Free Brochure.

North Carolina Blueberry News
NCSU Horticultural Crops Research Station
3800 Castle Hayne Road
Castle Hayne, NC 28429

DUKE BLUEBERRY PLANTS – and other cultivars. Darden's Blueberry Nursery, 106 Yellow Cut Road, Rose Hill, NC 28458. (910) 289-2849, nights.

BLUEBERRY HARVESTER – 8000 Korvan, 330 hrs. David Allen Sandlin, (910) 298-3515.

MOORE'S MACHINE SHOP – Machining, welding, burning, fabricating. Contact Kenneth R. Moore, Owner/ Operator, Phone/Fax (910) 283-7288.

COMMENTS REQUESTED -- If you have questions, comments or suggestions for improving this newsletter, Please contact: Bill Cline, Editor, NC Blueberry Newsletter, NCSU Horticultural Crops Research Station, 3800 Castle Hayne Road, Castle Hayne NC 28429. Tel: (910) 675-2314, Fax: (910) 675-0242 E-mail: bill_cline@ncsu.edu

RECOMMENDATIONS OF SPECIFIC CHEMICALS ARE BASED UPON INFORMATION ON THE MANUFACTURER'S LABEL AND PERFORMANCE IN A LIMITED NUMBER OF TRIALS. BECAUSE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS AND METHODS OF APPLICATION BY GROWERS MAY VARY WIDELY, PERFORMANCE OF THE CHEMICAL WILL NOT ALWAYS CONFORM TO THE SAFETY AND PEST CONTROL STANDARDS INDICATED BY EXPERIMENTAL DATA. ALL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PESTICIDE USE WERE LEGAL AT THE TIME OF PUBLICATION, BUT THE STATUS OF REGISTRATION AND USE PATTERNS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BY ACTIONS OF STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATORY AGENCIES. ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW THE LABEL.