

North Carolina Blueberry News



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**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.

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OPEN HOUSE & TRADE SHOW JANUARY 13-14, 2003



**New Location!
Two Day Trade
Show!**

The 37th Annual Open House of the North Carolina Blueberry Council, Inc. will be held January 13-14, 2003 at the Sampson Agri-Exposition Center in Clinton, NC. **This is a new location.** For more information about the site and how to get there by car, go to www.sampsonexpoctr.com.

The open house program includes a presentation of three new mechanically harvestable cultivars from NCSU (see page 2), as well as the latest on disease, insect and weed control. There will be special emphasis on propagation of blueberries this year. Mike Mainland will discuss “Rooting the Hard-to-Root” cultivars, and Bill Cline will present new information on

Cylindrocladium or “peanut” blight, a disease that kills cuttings in both softwood and hardwood rooting beds in NC.

We have invited **Gerard Krewer** of the University of Georgia to speak on the status of the blueberry industry in Georgia, and **Lisa McAnulty** from Appalachian State University will share information about her research on human subjects, investigating the effect of blueberry consumption on oxidative stress during exercise. The **Trade Show** is a new addition to the meeting. We have invited dozens of companies to display equipment and services:

Marketers ! Harvesters ! Packing lines ! Tractors ! Flats, clamshell pints and labels ! Crop Insurance ! Irrigation ! Fertilizer and chemicals ! Color sorters ! Sprayers ! Bees ! Plant nurseries . . . and much more!!

The deadline to send in exhibitor fees and reserve floor or booth space is December 2nd, 2002. If you or one of your suppliers would like more information about display space at the open house, please contact Bill Cline or Benny Bloodworth at (910) 675-2314.

2003 NC Blueberry Open House & Trade Show

Monday, Jan. 13	9:00 - 9:30 am	Grower registration
	9:30 - 11:55 am	Research reports & invited talks, new equipment
	12:15 - 1:30 pm	Catered lunch
	1:30 - 4:30 pm	Trade show
Tuesday, Jan. 14	8:30 - 9:30 am	Coffee & donuts, trade show continues
	9:30 - 11:30 am	Research reports, current issues, business meeting, drawing for door prizes

NEW SOUTHERN Highbush Cultivars for 2003

Susan Rooks and Jim Ballington
Horticultural Science, NCSU

Three new mechanically harvestable cultivars have been approved for release in 2003. All are from the same cross and have similar characteristics, and in ripening season are intended to follow the early-season, mechanically harvested cultivars 'Reveille' and 'Bladen'.

More details about these cultivars and the availability of plants will be forthcoming via mail and at the NC Open House January 13-14.

NC 2910 was selected at Castle Hayne, NC in 1987 by J. R. Ballington and S. D. Rooks. It originated from the cross NC 1406 (*V. darrowii* – highbush) x 'Pender', also made by Ballington. NC 2910 is a self-fruitful early-midseason to midseason southern highbush blueberry with excellent yield, fruit color and scar, along with good size for mechanical harvest. It has good firmness and flavor. It competes well with current cultivars in shelf-life studies at 50° F. It will be a good cultivar to follow the early cultivars 'Reveille' and 'Bladen' (along with NC 3115 and NC 3201), and will continue the season for fresh packing and processing varieties adapted to mechanical harvesting. This cultivar should come in before the mechanical harvesting type 'Pender'. '**Craven**' is suggested as a name for NC 2910 in honor of Craven County in the commercial blueberry production area in eastern North Carolina.

NC 3115 was selected at Castle Hayne, NC in 1987 by J. R. Ballington and S. D. Rooks. It originated from the cross NC 1406 (*V. darrowii* – highbush) x 'Pender', also made by Ballington. NC 3115 is a self-unfruitful midseason southern highbush blueberry with good yield, firmness and scar, along with small-medium size fruit with excellent flavor. It competes well with current cultivars in shelf-life studies at 50° F. It will be a good cultivar to follow the early cultivars 'Reveille' and 'Bladen', along with NC 2910 and NC 3201. This will

help continue the season for fresh packing or process by machine. This cultivar should come around the same season as the mechanical harvesting type 'Pender'. As a hand-pick cultivar, NC 3115 has potential for extended shelf-life based on the soluble solids/acids ratio. '**Lenoir**' is suggested as a name for NC 3115 in honor of Lenoir County in the commercial blueberry production area in eastern North Carolina.

NC 3201 was selected at Castle Hayne, NC in 1988 by J. R. Ballington and S. D. Rooks. It originated from the cross NC 1406 (*V. darrowii* – highbush) x 'Pender', also made by Ballington. NC 3201 is a self-fruitful early-midseason to midseason southern highbush blueberry with excellent yield, fruit color and flavor, along with good fruit size for mechanical harvest. It has a good fruit scar and firmness. NC 3201 competes well with current cultivars in shelf-life studies at 50° F. It will be a good cultivar to follow the early cultivars 'Reveille' and 'Bladen' along with NC 2910 and NC 3115. This will help continue the season for fresh packing and process of varieties adapted to mechanical harvesting. This cultivar should come in before the mechanical harvesting type 'Pender'. '**Pamlico**' is suggested as a name for NC 3201 in honor of Pamlico County in the commercial blueberry production area in eastern North Carolina.

JUST A REMINDER . . .

The **2003 Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Convention and Trade Show** will be held January 10-12, 2003 at the Savannah Civic Center. This is an excellent meeting that is co-sponsored by several groups, including the **Georgia Blueberry Growers Association**. There will be two half-day blueberry sessions and a trade show, as well as a host of local attractions and fine restaurants in Savannah. For more information call **1-877-99GFVGA** (toll free) or check out the details at www.gfvga.org

FIELD NOTES

Bill Cline, Plant Pathology, NCSU

As reported in the last newsletter, one benefit of the drought this summer was a noticeable reduction in leaf

spot diseases. Leaf spot diseases are a major cause of early leaf drop, and branches that defoliate early do not form as many flower buds. This year, blueberries in southeastern NC have held their leaves exceptionally well in late summer and fall. As a result, flower bud set appears to be better than normal for the upcoming 2003 harvest season.

NEW NCBC LOGO

Many thanks to **Laurie Wood**, Blueberry Marketing Specialist with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, who enlisted the resources of her department to develop the 'North Carolina Blueberry Council' logo seen on the front of this newsletter!

This newsletter and other blueberry information is available on-line:

<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.

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

BLUEBERRY PLANTS for sale – Duke, Reveille, O'Neal, Premier, Powderblue. Contact Ed Darden, (910) 289-2849.

BLUEBERRY PLANTS for sale – Bladen, Duke, Reveille, O'Neal, Premier. Contact Jake Barnes, (910) 588-4896.

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.

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