



Greetings from Nourse Farms

The berry business is booming! Demand for fresh berries is the best we've seen for over two decades. Our customers must be doing very well because they are planting everything we have to sell. Buy local is more than a trend: it is a reality. Whether it is pick your own, farmers market, or farm stand, there is a greater demand for fresh local berries. Investing in berries is producing healthy profits and happy customers.

The new varieties offered the past two years are yielding great results. Wendy is the best new early strawberry variety we've seen, it's flavor and yield will move it to one of our top five selling varieties in 2009. Joan J and Himbo Top offer higher production and flavor, they will add profitability to most every growers operation. Ouachita will help growers, in zone 6 and higher, break the orange rust cycle and produce an earlier crop.

We have broken ground on two expansion projects, a new laboratory and a new cooler. Both projects will enhance our ability to serve you better. The new cooler will give us more cooling capacity and will add to shipping efficiency. The new lab building will add much more capacity and state of the art technology that will deliver the best planting stock available.

Nourse Farms is committed to making your plantings and harvests more successful. Please call with questions. We answer thousands of calls from growers every year, it is our pleasure to discuss any growing issue you may have to resolve.

Thank you for another great year!

Nate Nourse (to contact via email: [nnourse@noursefarms.com](mailto:nnourse@noursefarms.com))

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### **HIMBO TOP™ (Rafzaqu variety)**

TIM NOURSE

Himbo Top, a new primocane raspberry variety we introduced last year, is noted for its high-quality fruit, tolerance to Phytophthora root-rot disease, and high yield potential. Touring raspberry production sites in Southern Germany this past August, I continue to be impressed with its performance.

Himbo Top is preferred by a large percentage of growers in this region. Its strength is its tolerance to Phytophthora. Soils in this area are clay-like. One grower related that this was his second year harvesting Himbo Top on a site where two other varieties have failed to even get established. In addition, the quality fruit with its good construction, small drupelets, and large fruit size were positive.

We are recommending some special management practices for best results:

Lower fertilizer requirements. Because of its high vigor, too much fertilizer will create too much plant and can reduce fruit firmness. (Continued on page 3)

### **2008 – 2009 TRADE SHOWS**

If you are planning to attend any of these shows and would like to visit, please call to schedule an appointment. There is always time before, during, or after the trade show for consultation.

**December 9–11, 2008**

**Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable and Farm Market Expo with NARBA**  
Grand Rapids, MI  
[www.glexpo.com](http://www.glexpo.com)  
616-794-0492

**January 4–6, 2009**

**WI Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Conf.**  
Wisconsin Dells, WI  
920-478-3852

**January 13–14, 2009**

**OH Produce Growers & Marketers Association Congress**  
Sandusky, OH  
[www.ohiovegetables.org](http://www.ohiovegetables.org)  
614-487-1117

**January 19–21, 2009**

**North American Strawberry Growers Assoc. Annual Conf.**  
New Orleans, LA  
[www.nasga.org](http://www.nasga.org)  
613-258-4587

**January 27–29, 2009**

**Northwest Agricultural Show**  
Portland, OR  
503-769-7120

**January 29–31, 2009**

**Iowa Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association Conference**  
West Des Moines, IA  
515-232-5801

**February 3–5, 2009**

**Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Growers Convention**  
Hershey Lodge & Convention Center  
Hershey, PA  
717-677-4184

**February 11–12, 2009**

**2009 Empire State Fruit and Veg. Expo**  
Syracuse, NY  
[www.nysvga.org](http://www.nysvga.org)  
(315) 687-5734

## ***ARE YOU PLANNING A PLANTING FOR 2009?***

### **\*\* IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS \*\***

NATE NOURSE

Many growers realize they need a plan to make sure they are ready to plant in spring. Once you have selected a site, it is important to consider how it will be planted to maximize air and water drainage. We are looking at our new field and are wondering if we should keep the nice long rows for ease of cultivation and application of pesticide, or change to many short rows that will have better water drainage and easier harvest. Will it be better to change? I have arguments to support both. What would you do?

General extension recommendations include a weed survey. Even though most weeds won't live through the winter, knowing what is there will give an idea of what will return. Once all weeds are identified, a strategy can be developed to combat problem weeds before and after planting. The most successful weed eradication program will begin 2-3 years prior to planting; this will utilize the best crops to rid the field of problem weeds. Many growers now use Round Up ready corn and beans. This program not only eradicates many problem weeds, it also has no residual herbicides to harm new berry plantings. This brings up the issue of herbicides with plant back restrictions. Many of our growers have seen poor stands where 'Command' herbicide was used the year before for weed suppression in their pumpkins. Be sure to read all herbicide labels' plant back restrictions, this can prevent a lot of potential problems.

Growers know the value of a soil test, but many are underutilizing an available option, the nematode test. The nematode test can give a grower a good idea on how well plants will perform. The severity of black root rot is directly related to nematode populations, the higher the population the greater the chance for infection. Knowing the population level will allow growers to consider the most appropriate treatment to produce the best crop. There are special considerations for more accurate samples. Extension recommendations include separate samples taken from the wet and dry parts of a field. They also recommend separately testing parts of a field that had different crops. Please contact your local extension office or soil lab for all special considerations. There is nothing more valuable than very good samples that produce accurate results.

This information can be found in most extension production guides. Information from the Mid-Atlantic Berry Guide was used to write this article. The Mid-Atlantic Berry Guide can be accessed on the web at <http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/freepubs/MABerryGuide.htm> . We also offer other extension links at <http://www.noursefarms.com/CommercialGrowers/Links.aspx> .

## ***PHYTOPHTHORA CONTROL***

Many areas of the East Coast and Midwest were subject to extensive wet periods over the spring and summer months. Growers have been calling about Phytophthora symptoms in their plantings. We recommend a proactive approach in order to control Phytophthora successfully.

### **Chemical Control**

Ridomil and Aliette are registered chemicals for the control of this disease. A newsletter from the Pacific Northwest suggests that Aliette be applied first and followed with Ridomil under extended wet conditions.

### **Spring and Fall Applications**

It is better to prevent Phytophthora root rot, than to try and control it once symptoms appear. Fall applications (late Sept./ Oct.) can protect plant roots through early spring. An early spring application can usually protect roots until summer. Many growers have not only seen protection, they have also seen a measurable growth response. If you have extended wet conditions after planting or during the season, additional applications may be required.

### **A Review of Cultural Practices to Control Phytophthora**

1. Plant on well-drained sites.
2. Planting on raised beds will significantly reduce incidence of the disease.
3. Creating waterways that remove water, and not allowing water to collect in pockets will also reduce incidence of the disease.
4. Our best commercial varieties have limited resistance to the disease; therefore there is limited control within variety selection.

**\*\*CHEMICAL PRODUCTS** listed in this newsletter are intended as **guidelines**. It is the responsibility of the grower to read and follow all label rates and instructions for their particular state. **\*\*\***

## **HIMBO TOP** (Continued from page 1)

Control the number of fruiting canes. Growers reduced the number of canes to 9-12 per meter, or 3-4 per foot of row. I asked one trial manager what would happen if she doubled the number of plants. She felt that the yield would be cut in half. It will pay to control cane numbers from their emergence in the spring until early August.

Trellising is important with Himbo Top. Himbo Top has long laterals that develop down the cane. Holding the canes in a tight, upright profile will provide support for the long laterals when heavy with fruit. This will also put fruit in good view for highest picking efficiency. With these long laterals the distance between rows should be 9 to 10 feet.

We feel that Himbo Top may be a good variety for organic growers. Its lower requirements for fertilizer and high tolerance to disease make it a good choice. With good cane management and the reduction of canopy, natural air drainage will help with berry rot control.

For Tunnel Producers Himbo Top has especially high potential using the suggested management guidelines. It can be managed as a long season primocane producer as well as for an excellent spring or florican crop. There is additional information on tunnel production that I will discuss in another article.

Please contact Tim Nourse if you have any questions, by calling the office or by email [tnourse@noursefarms.com](mailto:tnourse@noursefarms.com)

## **FALL APPLICATION OF HERBICIDES ON STRAWBERRIES**

TIM NOURSE

Some of our better herbicides are labeled for fall application. But careful attention to application timing is critical. No one wants to damage their plants, yet best results for weed control is equally important.

If you have perennial grasses growing in your strawberry plantings, an application of POAST or SELECT herbicides should be made immediately while the grass is in a good growing condition. If you still have grass in the spring, a second follow up application can be made when the growth is 4 to 6 inches or taller.

If using STINGER or SINBAR for broadleaf weed control, Dr. Doug Doohan, Weed Specialist at Ohio State indicates that the most important criteria is that the perennial seedlings are small. Dormancy is not an important consideration. No yield reduction has been documented if these are applied in September or October.

On the other hand, Dr. Doohan says that good dormancy levels are very important when applying 2,4-D (Formula 40), SPARTAN, GOAL and CHATEAU. Complete dormancy is critical when applying CHATEAU.

Plant dormancy can be measured by accumulated hours of chill - when the temperatures are between 45° and 32° F. A good level of dormancy occurs after accumulation of 400 hours of chill. Cornell University specialists use the number of frosts to determine dormancy. Three or four killing frosts occurring over a sustained period of time results in plants achieving dormancy.

**MOST IMPORTANT – Do not apply any of these herbicides on FROZEN ground or damage will result.**

**CAUTION:** We recommend that you check your State Recommendations to be sure the herbicide has a label for your state.



## VARIETY UPDATE FOR 2009

### Blueberries – Limited Quantities:

#### **Draper** (U.S. Plant Patent #15,103)

Productive, early mid-season blueberry. Fresh-market variety. Results indicate high production and good flavor.

#### **Liberty** (U.S. Plant Patent #15,146)

Late-season, fresh-market variety blueberry. Ripens five days before Elliot, with better quality.

#### **Aurora** (U.S. Plant Patent #15,185)

Very Late blueberry. Seven to ten days after Elliot.

#### **Nelson**

Mid to late season with high yields of large, firm berries.

### Asparagus:

#### **Millennium**

Millennium, all male asparagus, has established itself as a very high yielding, high quality hybrid. Developed by Prof. David Wolyn, University of Guelph, Canada, this variety has become a major contributor to the Ontario asparagus industry, accounting for 70% of all seed sold in Ontario.

Millennium was named “Seed of the Year” in 2005 at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. Millennium is also performing very well in the Michigan industry where it is out yielding all the Jersey Hybrids in their medium to heavy soil conditions.

We are pleased to offer this very high yielding hybrid and recommend it to be trialed under your conditions to assess its performance.

### Strawberry:

#### **AC Wendy** (U.S. Plant Patent #18,340)

We have received many positive reports on Wendy. Growers have seen excellent growth and vigor. We have had mixed reports on foliar disease resistance, but there are too many variables in this equation to have a definite answer. Initial reports are suggesting that Wendy’s early fruit production, berry size and great flavor will satisfy most growers. Our biggest concern is Wendy’s susceptibility to frost or freeze damage. This variety could produce flowers 5-7 days earlier than most other early varieties and growers will need to be ready with frost protection measures.

### Primocane Red Raspberry:

#### **Joan J** (U.S. Plant Patent #18,954) Can. Breeding Rights Pending

We have seen this very high producing variety perform well in our fields, as well as many of our growers. It is a very vigorous variety. Consequently, growers will want to apply lower rates of nitrogen. Excessive nitrogen will produce soft fruit and excessive growth. This vigor is going to change the way you trellis and prune. Our normal trellis height is 36”-40”. With Joan J we suggest adding a second support at 46”-48”. We would also recommend some thinning prior to trellis installation. There is no doubt that a little extra effort will yield great results.



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### **\*\*\*Early Pay Discount\*\*\***

(Orders over \$500, paid in full by:)

*December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 3%*

*January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009 2%*

## ***In This Issue:***

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- ***Himbo Top™***
- ***Phytophthora Control***