



Greetings from Nourse Farms

What a wonderful year for berries! 2005 could be our best crop ever – healthy plants, abundant production and more varieties than ever bearing fruit late into the season. We're very excited.

Conditions were right for an early start, so our field crew had the first plants in the ground by April 22. This head start, combined with cooler than normal temperatures over the summer, kept plants stress-free and growing exceptionally well. In addition, Nourse Farms invested in a new sprayer that has improved the coverage of all crop protectants. The resulting crop could set records for the coming season.

We're pleased to offer three new varieties of strawberries, which are discussed in our feature article. In our quest to introduce these new plants to as many growers as possible, we will be limiting trial quantities. Order early to be sure you try these new varieties. In addition to the new strawberries, we continue to trial Himbo Top, Jaclyn and Joan J primocane raspberries as new early season choices. We're also offering the Tixia red gooseberry for trial.

Nourse Farms is committed to making your season as successful as our own. Please call with questions! We answer thousands of calls from growers every year and will be pleased to discuss any aspect of plant culture or growing issues with you.

In the meantime, here's to a terrific season!

*Nate Nourse,
Nourse Farms, Inc.*

Tips on Growing and Harvesting Prelude Berries

THE PRELUDE variety is a recent introduction from the Geneva, New York, Experiment Station.

PRELUDE is an early ripening floricanne (summer bearing) variety which also is capable of producing a fall crop (on the primocanes). Harvesting both the fall and spring fruit results in a greater total yield. In discussing the growing of PRELUDE with various growers, there appears to be a wide range of yield results between them.

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Grower Responses to Darselect Performance

We conducted a second survey this summer to determine the performance of Darselect. The conclusions reached were as follows:

Fruiting season

After

Earliglow, Chandler, Annapolis, Northeast, and Honeoye.

Before

Jewel, Allstar, Winona, Eros and Cardinal.

This is a good fruiting season and compliments the earlier and later varieties for a consistent supply of high quality berries through the mid-season.

Plant Vigor

85% reported vigor to be good to excellent.

Yield

75% reported their yield results to be good to excellent.

Many growers commented that the wet weather conditions this past spring affected the over-all crop performance of their strawberries.

Management of Darselect for Best Yield and Fruit Size

A large percent of survey respondents rated both the yield and berry size of Darselect as high. Results shows that yield and berry size

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To Order: Phone (413) 665-2658 • Fax (413) 665-7888 • M – F, 8 am – 5 pm, E.S.T. • Email: info@noursefarms.com

Visit us on the World Wide Web: www.NourseFarms.com

NEW Strawberry Varieties for 2005

Nourse Farms will offer three new strawberry varieties for the 2005 season. They are:

L'Amour and **Clancy** from the New York State Experiment Station in Geneva, New York and **Bish** from the North Carolina program. Dr. Courtney Weber released L'Amour and Clancy in July of 2003. We will have commercial quantities available for growers to plant this coming season. As limited quantities of plants were available last year we have limited grower input. Dr. Weber describes the varieties as follows:

L'AMOUR, Tested as NY 1829, it is a hybrid cross with Cavendish. Fruiting 2-3 days after Honeoye. The berries

are bright red, not as dark as Honeoye, similar in fruit size as Honeoye and firmer than Jewel. The fruit is described as large, long, conic and appearance is attractive with a fancy upright calyx. The fruit does not darken with storage. L'Amour is resistant to red stele disease.

CLANCY, Tested as NYUS 304B, the fruit is shaped round, conical with dark red color and good flavor. The berries are firm. Under New York conditions, the berries ripen 2-3 days later than Jewel. Yields were similar to Jewel, with larger fruit size. Firmness and bruising rates were equal to Jewel. As both parents

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All three of these varieties are protected by Plant Patents. The royalty rate of these 3 new hybrids is \$20.00 per 1000 plants. Dr. Weber states that a royalty rate increase is necessary due to a decrease in funds from State and Federal sources and the increased costs of running a breeding program. In addition, Cornell University has not changed their royalty rate for over 20 years.

Prelude Tips

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To achieve the best yield with PRELUDE, We recommend the following:

1. Grow PRELUDE as a standard primocane variety. Northern growers will harvest less fall fruit than Mid-Atlantic or Southern growers, because of the length of season. However Northern growers will harvest an excellent early crop.
2. During the winter or early spring, prune the canes back to about chest height or about 4½ feet. This will cause multiple branching, or fruiting cane development from the top auxiliary buds. The multiple cane branching that results is the key to maximizing the fruiting potential and spring crop.
3. PRELUDE produced in the Mid-Atlantic and South, because of a longer growing season, can be tipped after the summer crop to cause multiple branching for the fall crop resulting in more fruit yield. Tip each primocane at 4½ feet.

IMPORTANT: TIP JUST THE GROWING POINT

The tips break off easily with your fingers. This is just the top couple of inches. DO NOT break off any more than just the growing tip or it will actually reduce fruiting. Tipping causes branching. Instead of harvesting on just 1 primocane tip, you harvest each plant from 2 to 3 fruiting tips. You will need to tip 2 or 3 times in order to tip at the best stage of development. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Winter Meeting Schedule

We look forward to visiting with you at the Horticulture meetings and Trade Shows this winter. Please stop in and visit our booth. We will be at the following shows:

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| Great Lakes Expo
Grand Rapids, MI
Booth #241
Tim will be present | Dec. 7-9 |
| New England Fruit & Berry Conference
Manchester, NH
Booth #21
Nate and Tim will be present | Dec. 15-16 |
| WI Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Conference
Stevens Point, WI
Booth # 28
Nate will be present | Jan. 9-11 |
| Ohio Fruit & Vegetable Growers Conference
Toledo, Ohio
Booth #118
Nate and Tim will be present | Jan. 19-21 |
| Mid-Atlantic Fruit & Vegetable Conference
Hershey, PA
Booth #TBD
Nate and Tim will be present | Feb. 1-3 |
| N. American Farmers' Direct Marketing Association 20TH Annual Conference
Boston, MA
Nate will be present | Feb. 11-12 |
| Empire State Fruit & Vegetable Expo
Syracuse, NY
Booth #TBD
Nate will be present | Feb. 14-17 |
| North American Berry Conference
Nashville, TN
Booth #TBD
Nate and Tim will be present | Feb. 16-19 |

Darselect Response

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are influenced by the size of the daughter plants in matted row production. The size of daughter plants can be controlled by plant spacing at the time of planting. For optimum plant size we recommend you set your plants 2-4 inches closer, being prepared to cut off excess runners to allow the earliest daughter plants to become well established and develop large crowns.

Please note: In the second year of fruiting, fruit size has the potential to increase as the daughter plants are larger, if the plants don't become overcrowded. Darselect is a vigorous variety and should be renovated accordingly.

Leaf Diseases of Darselect

Several growers reported the incidence of leaf disease on Darselect. They are, however, controlling it with combination cover sprays of Captan plus Nova or a Captan plus Cabrio combination. In the future, when, or before, you see the first signs of leaf disease, one cover spray per month should hold the disease from spreading. Rotate your spray with the second combination.

Conclusion

Darselect is very complimentary to your variety menu and compliments any other major commercial variety. This vigorous variety performs in a wide range of conditions over a wide geographical area—from the east coast to the mid-west. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Please email questions:

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New Releases for Testing

Late Season Selection 88-74-1

We are testing 88-74-1 to find out its potential as a late season strawberry producer. 88-74-1 begins to fruit about July 1st at our site in Massachusetts. It has fruited here for 5 years, consistently producing a late crop which has been at least a week later than the variety Idea. Several growers planted 88-74-1 this past spring. We expect to have good grower experience to report by late next summer. The 88-74-1 selection is vigorous, high producing and the fruit has an attractive bright red color. This is the latest fruiting variety we have seen which will extend the fruiting season 10 days to 2 weeks.

If you are looking for a variety to extend your season, we would suggest planting trials of 200 - 1,000 plants for your own evaluation.

Mid Season Selections E9-A5-13 and 91-80-2

E9-A5-13 and 91-80-2 are two new selections from two different Italian Breeding Programs. Both of these selections have been identified for their very high yields and fruit qualities in our trials over the last 3 years. Plants were available to growers this past Spring. Therefore, there are several growers with plants to fruit in 2005.

Nourse Farms is looking for grower participation to evaluate these selections to see if they would be worthwhile for releasing to the industry. A plant trial of 200 to 1,000 plants would be available to growers for testing this year. Please contact us for details about these exciting new selections.

Phytophthora Control on Raspberries

Many areas of the East Coast and Mid-West were subject to extensive wet periods over the last two seasons. Growers have been calling about Phytophthora symptoms in their raspberry plantings. This high Phytophthora pressure can be alleviated with the following control methods. We recommend a proactive approach in order to control Phytophthora successfully.

Chemical Control

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

<http://www.syngentacropprotection-us.com/prod/fungicide/ridomil/>

Timing of First Application

Make your first application when the soil has been wet for an extended period. This is usually sometime in October. In the North, often the ground will freeze and the next application is made in the spring after the frost is out and conditions allow you to get spray equipment into the field.

If you have extended wet conditions after planting or during the growing season, additional applications may be required to control the disease.

A Review of Cultural Practices to Control Phytophthora

1. Plant on well-drained sites.
2. Planting on raised beds will significantly reduce the incidence of the disease.
3. Creating water ways to remove or 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 with variety selection.

*Consult your state
recommendations for more detail.*

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Soil Fumigation Update

The use of Methyl Bromide (MB) is due to be phased out in 2005. Recently the EPA applied for a Critical Use Exemption Process for the exemption of specific crops and conditions. A decision is due in December to clarify this process for the further use of MB for strawberry production.

C-35: Some growers are using C-35 (Telone+Chloropictrin) successfully under their Conditions. Telone is a very good nemadicide while chloropictrin controls soil fungi diseases. However, Dow Chemical Company does not make C-35 available to the Northeast region.

VAPAM: The use of Vapam has shown this chemical to have adequate soil disease control, but limited control of nematodes on the East Coast and Mid-West

regions. The addition of Telone with the Vapam is an alternative for broad-spectrum control.

Ethanedinitrile (EDN)

I attended the 5th International strawberry Symposium in September. At the symposium a new alternative to MB was reported. Ethanedinitrile (EDN) is a new fumigant that has demonstrated its potential for soil disinfections for strawberry production. Studies carried out in the lab and early field studies indicate that EDN controlled soil borne pathogens and weeds at the same level as MB. Currently the first field trials in the Strawberry Nursery and Fruit Industry are being carried out in Australia. This appears to be a positive development for a safe and effective replacement for MB.

NEW Strawberry Varieties

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were red stele resistant, it is presumed that Clancy is resistant to red stele disease.

New for 2005: BISH (Delmarvel x Fl 87-210)

Recently released by Dr. Jim Ballington at North Carolina University, Bish is a vigorous and productive new variety. The berries are firm and a glossy dark red color similar in appearance to Delmarvel, except larger in size. Bish is best suited for plasticulture in the Southern Appalachian and Middle Atlantic regions. We feel it should be trialed in matted row culture where high quality is required. Bish is resistant to anthracnose fruit rot and has good resistance to foliage diseases. It is highly recommended for trial plantings.