



Greetings From the Editor

Spring is arriving in most areas and many growers will be planting within the next 30 days. We still have an excellent supply of most strawberry varieties. The plants are packing out well with large crown size on healthy looking plants. We are sold out of a few of our raspberry varieties, but still have an excellent assortment to choose from in red, black, purple, and yellow. We also have blackberry plants. Our supply of large-sized (18"-30") blueberry plants is adequate also. Now is the time to reserve these plants. Don't delay; order today while the selection is still available.

This spring newsletter deals with important management concerns. If you have any questions on any of the issues, please contact us. We have updated our plasticulture guide for dormant strawberry plants for your review. The option of a crown fruit harvest, programmed to extend the normal June season, can provide not only a decent crop of berries but also help generate enough revenue to pay a large portion of the plant bill in the first growing season. We continue to learn more to increase the success with this system and will share this information in our updated guide. Contact us for a copy.

We appreciate your past business and look forward to filling your plant needs again this spring. **Please note:** we are scheduling our refrigerated truck service for this spring's large orders. Be sure to ask us how this service can be utilized to benefit your plant delivery.

Trial Day Neutral Variety – EV-2

We have a new day neutral variety available for testing this season. EV-2 was introduced by Peter Vinson's private breeding program in Kent, England. Early reports indicate that EV-2 has more tolerance to summer heat than other day neutrals. Also, EV-2 is higher yielding than EVEREST. Fruit quality is also rated high for EV-2.

We have limited availability for this year but want to get this new exciting variety into as many grower trials as possible. *Contact us if you have further questions.*

To Place an order:

Phone 413-665-2658 or Fax 413-665-7888

Hours of operation: M-F 8am-5pm EST

www.noursefarms.com

Questions? Email info@noursefarms.com

Controlling Japanese Beetles

Japanese Beetles are persistent insects that feed on raspberry and blueberry plants. We experience continuous feeding on plants and fruit during the harvest periods. The beetles do extensive damage to leaves and feeding on the fruit makes the fruit un-salable.

Grub Control: Grubs are best controlled when they are small and near the soil surface in late June and July.

Raspberry: There are no insecticides registered for grub control for Raspberries. See Adult control below.

Strawberry: *Admire 2F* is labeled for post-harvest control of white grub complex.

Blueberries & Ribes: *Admire 2F* is labeled for a post bloom, pre-harvest application or post harvest application for white grub complex. The label includes grass-covered rows, row middles, headlands and grassy areas in and around fields.

Adult Control: Paying close attention to controlling the first emerging adults reduces the early populations and a build-up of populations. Broad-spectrum insecticides such as *Phosmet*, *Carbaryl*, *Malathion*, and *Pyrenone* crop spray will give good control. We use *Pyrenone* for quick knockdown and no residual. (0 days to harvest).

Biological Control: Entomopathogenic Nematode species has shown to be effective in controlling grubs. Milky spore products may also be effective in controlling grub populations. (See www.milkyspore.com)

Traps baited with lures will attract adults, however because the adults are attracted from such a wide area, increased populations may become a problem.

Miscellaneous Pesticide Information

1. Plant Dip for Anthracnose (collectotrichum) control in Strawberry.

Abound, a Syngenta product has a supplemental label for dip applications at transplanting. Rate: 5-8 ounces per 100 gallons of water. Dip plants for 2-5 minutes. A nurse tank can be prepared in advance, solution poured into the poly liner of the plant box with the dipping or soaking done right in the box.

Growers using this procedure have reported excellent results for preventing the disease.

2. New miticide for Strawberry

Zeal miticide, a Valent product, is now registered for two-spotted mite control in strawberries. This product is different chemistry and works primarily as an ovicide/lavacide. Apply before populations build. Worker reentry is 12 hours and pre-harvest interval is 1 day.

3. New herbicide for Strawberry

Aim, EC herbicide is a FMC product for broadleaf weed control. It is labeled as a pre-plant burn down or hooded sprayer application for control of weeds between the rows.

It is IMPORTANT that the hood completely encloses the spray pattern, as **crop injury will occur** if there is any contact with leaves, stems, flowers or any plant tissue. The worker re-entry is 12 hours and the pre-harvest interval is 0 days.

4. Labeled for Organic Growers

StorOx, a hydrogen dioxide treatment for control of plant pathogenic diseases in field grown crops and in greenhouses. Sold by Bio Safe Systems, manufacturers of *Oxidate*. At this time *StorOx* meets organic requirements. Check the status at purchase.

For more information:
<http://www.biosafesystems.com/labels.html>

New Variety Description

L'Amour - (Honeoye X Cavendish)
Released by Dr. Weber, NYS Agric.
Exp. Station, Geneva, NY

Nourse Farms has not seen this new variety, but the breeder's data indicates that its high yielding like Honeoye, but has excellent flavor. Ripens 2 to 3 days after Honeoye, the fruit is bright red and not as dark as Honeoye. The fruit size is similar to Honeoye, but the fruit firmness is firmer than Jewel. The appearance is reported to be attractive with a fancy calyx. Plant is resistant to the Red Stele disease. Based on release information, L'AMOUR is highly recommended for grower trials.

Clancy - Released by Dr. Weber, NYS Agric. Exp. Station, Geneva, NY.

Nourse Farms has fruited this variety and recommends it for grower trials. The breeder's data indicates it has high production capability. Ripens 2 to 3 days later than Jewel. The breeder describes the fruit to be shaped round, conical with dark red color and good flavor. Yields were similar to Jewel, but with larger fruit size. Firmness is rated equal to Jewel. As both parents are resistant to Red Stele, it is highly probable that it is resistant to Red Stele disease. Based on release information, CLANCY is highly recommended for grower trials.

Bish - (Delmarvel X FL 87-210)
Released by Dr. Ballington, No. Carolina State Univ.

Nourse Farms will fruit this variety for the first time this coming June. The breeder data indicates this new variety should be highly disease resistant and very flavorful.

Probably will ripen in the early-midseason range. Berries are firm, glossy dark red color, similar to the Delmarvel parent, except larger in size and more productive. Tests show it does well in plasticulture and with its good plant vigor it is a

good candidate for matted row production. Bish has very good disease resistance, showing resistance to Anthracnose fruit rot and good resistance to foliage diseases. Based on the release information, BISH is highly recommended for grower trials.

88-74-1 - Nourse Farms has fruited this selection in our fruiting trials for several years and believe it has high merit for advanced trialing by commercial growers.

Fruits the latest of any selection or variety that we have ever seen, being several days later than Idea. It begins fruiting July 1 to July 3 at our site here in Massachusetts. The fruit has an attractive red color, an improved color over Idea. Flavor is adequate, also an improvement over Idea. Berries hold the size well and have good production. The plant is vigorous and has good leaf cover that reduces or eliminates sun scalding that can occur under hot July conditions. Certain to extend the berry fruiting season, 88-74-1 is highly recommended for grower trials. Based on grower experience, this selection could be named and released as a future variety.

91-80-2 and E9-A5-13 - These 2 midseason selections have been grown in Nourse Farms trials for several years. As they have continued to show large size, excellent appearance and with good flavor, they merit planting in grower trials when larger yields and increase performance is needed. We will continue to keep you up-dated on all of these interesting new numbered selections. We highly recommend these selections for grower trials.

Strawberry Fungicide Update

In our 2004 spring newsletter, we reviewed the new Strawberry fungicides and made suggestions for designing a fungicide program. With continued considerable interest from growers, we are updating the recommendations for the 2005 season.

Scala, a new registered fungicide, from Bayer Crop Science, for Botrytis gray mold on strawberries. A Reduced Risk product, *Scala* is newer chemistry (pyrimetnanil) and will be a product to use with the other Botrytis controls to prevent resistance from developing.

PLEASE NOTE: Read the label for annual application limits and resistance management and check for labeling in your state.

Other Points to Consider

Resistance Management - Avoid making sequential applications of the same class fungicide. (See chart)

Whenever possible, use Captan with the various fungicides for broad-spectrum control and resistance management.

Pre-Bloom Applications

Pre-bloom sprays should be planned if the weather has been especially wet or extensive frost protection has been necessary.

Pre-bloom Recommendations:

Topsin-M plus *Captan*.

Bloom Applications

Starting at 10% through full bloom. Bloom sprays are the critical time to control botrytis and during warm wet periods growers must think about the potential for anthracnose infection. Because this is such a critical time many growers follow a 7-10 day fungicide program unless it is excessively dry. If the weather is very wet, this spray

interval can be as short as 4 to 5 days.

Bloom Recommendations:

Switch plus *Captan*
or *Elevate* plus *Captan*
or *Captevale* alone
or *Pristine* plus *Captan*
or *Scala* plus *Captan*
or *Topsin M* plus *Captan*

After Bloom

Green fruit through harvest. After flowering, the threat of botrytis infection decreases. Green fruit are not as susceptible to infection. If spray coverage was poor or lacking (too long an interval) in the bloom infection period, warm, wet conditions at harvest will cause botrytis rot in fruit. Warm, wet conditions increase the threat of anthracnose during harvest. Anthracnose can cause significant fruit loss and can be hard to control once it is identified. A preventative approach may be best in plantings where anthracnose is a concern or was present in prior harvests.

After Bloom recommendations:

Quadris plus *Captan*
or *Cabrio* plus *Captan*
or *Pristine* plus *Captan*

If necessary to continue coverage beyond two sprays, alternate the applications of the above chemicals with an application of:

**Switch*
or *Captan*
or *Thiram*
or *Elevate*

*Note *Switch* is not labeled for anthracnose but research results show it effective. *Switch* is, of course, very effective here for botrytis control in this season.

Please email your questions to:

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Fungicide Resistance Classification Code

Fungicide	Frac Code	Risk Level
CAPTAN	M4	L
NOVA	3	M
PROCURE	3	M
SWITCH	9	L-M
ELEVATE	17	L-M
SCALA	9	M
PRISTINE	7&11	M-H
CABRIO	11	H
QUADRIIS	11	H
TOPSIN M	1	H

For more information contact:
http://www.frac.info/publication/s/frac_list01.html

Or

http://www.frac.info/publication/s/frac_list02.html

Note: To manage the risk of development of resistance to fungicides, consider the FRAC level rating. Use high-risk fungicides less often and avoid using 2 applications of the same fungicide in a row.

Note: FRAC is the “Fungicide Resistance Action Committee”. This is an international, industry-based committee that issues guidance and anti-resistance strategies for different fungicide groups. For more info see:

<http://www.ag.uiuc.edu/cespubs/hyg/html/200413a.html>

Blueberry Video

Nourse Farms is pleased to offer “A Growers Guide to Pruning Highbush Blueberries”. The 22 minute film is produced by the Oregon State University Extension Service, and is presented by Dave Brazelton, a commercial grower and blueberry specialist.

The video is designed for use by commercial growers and home gardeners, and offers a complete guide for proper pruning of blueberry plants.

Order videos direct from Nourse Farms. The cost is \$38.

Managing Disease and Insects on Late Ripening Strawberry Varieties

Many growers will be fruiting more late ripening strawberry varieties this spring. The varieties that are considered to be late ripening are EROS, OVATION, IDEA and the test selection 88-74-1.

Why is there a concern?

With later flowering, growers need to be concerned with extending their scouting or their preventive spray programs to protect those flowers from insects and disease. The target pests that are most important are Tarnish Plant Bug and Botrytis gray mold disease.

Tarnish Plant Bug – Later ripening usually is associated with warmer temperatures. Warmer temperatures increase the feeding activity of the Tarnish Plant Bug, thus increasing the feeding pressure on the blossoms.

Botrytis Gray Mold – Simply if the later blooms are not protected, increased incidence of this disease can be experienced.

I have had discussions with growers who have experienced increased loss at the end of the season. With increased demand for late fruit, being sure late blooms are protected could impact you economically.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Trial Blackberry Varieties

Fort Kent King – A very winter hardy blackberry grown successfully in Northern Maine (Aroostook County). Plants are thorny, stand erect and produce berries about 1 inch long. This variety is available for testing and will provide an opportunity to grow blackberries where the season is too tough for standard varieties.

Cancaska – A thornless blackberry from Yugoslavia. The variety is reported to have better winter hardiness than Chester. This is an opportunity to evaluate a thornless variety with the possibility of having quality berries and increased hardiness.

Pricing are the same as those of Chester and Triple Crown.

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