



ONTARIO BERRY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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June 2010 NEWSLETTER

Presidents Report

Greetings from eastern Ontario. Mother Nature has provided us with very unique spring weather. A very early, warm, dry season made for early mulch removal from strawberries at many farms and in a lot of cases early placement of row covers. These conditions meant that our crops were advanced by 2 to 3 weeks. Then on Mothers' Day weekend, record cold temperatures caused varying degrees of damage to apple, strawberry, and even raspberry bloom. Early sweet corn planted on plastic was in many cases was knocked flat by the freezing temperatures and had to be replanted which presented some challenges.

Early growth on strawberry fields was slow and many plantings were still low statured as of this writing, but the extremely warm week following the May 24th weekend has picked things up a lot.

The big concern now is moisture, since this spring has been on of the driest on record and is following on the heels of a winter with much below normal snowfall.

Crop prospects vary tremendously, but generally strawberries look average and raspberries are looking better than average at this time. We must remember to keep the pumps going to provide much needed moisture during the bloom and harvest.

As of May 29 at our farm, we expect to start harvesting Wendy and Annapolis that were under row covers around June 7th. Raspberries will probably significantly overlap with strawberries this year and be ready by the end of June.

We must remember with such variable crop conditions to keep our message to our customers and the public in general very positive. Pick-your-own sales in particular can be very adversely affected if the public feels conditions are poor!

I hope you all have a profitable and not too stressful harvest season.

Regards,

Paul Ralph

From OBGA Headquarters

We are getting rolling picking strawberries and I assume that most of you will not have a lot of time to read this newsletter so I will try and limit the volume in this issue.

We have had lots of interest in our promotional materials but unfortunately have not received all of our orders yet which is not good seeing the season is underway. We will do our best to get them to you as soon as they are delivered.

We have many great members who are doing a lot of innovative work and are some of the best growers in any region. It is nice when growers get recognized and two of our member farms have recently received prestigious awards.

Steve and Lisa Cooper of Cooper's CSA Farm and Maze from Zephyr were awarded Ontario's Young Farmer of the year award. They will compete for the national award in Victoria, BC.

Tigchelaar Berry Farm was awarded the Minister's Award for Innovation at the Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence. Tigchelaar's were awarded for adopting a new production technique to expand their day neutral strawberry operation,

enabling it to provide fresh Ontario strawberries to consumers for nearly six months of the year.

Congratulations to both farms and I look forward to visiting Tigchelaar's in September at our annual twilight meeting on the 15th.

All the best!

Kevin

Achene Report

The Achene committee is not very active at this time of year. Becky has shipped a lot of plants from New Liskeard again this spring and we look forward to more new customers in the future to keep our propagation program vibrant.

The Verification Trials will be checked again this summer to ensure our plants are true to type and disease free. We would like to have more grower volunteers for this committee but it is a difficult time of year.

I hope you have a good picking season.

Thanks
Paul Watson
Achene Committee Chair

Variety Trial Update

OMAFRA summer student Patrick Clendinning is coordinating the on-farm variety trials this year. Thanks to the OBGA and funding from the FIP program, we are sub-contracting harvest to local growers or workers at several sites.

2008 strawberry trial: The varieties in 2008 include several selections from New York, including L'Amour, NY 56, NY61, NY9921, a selection from Quebec APF93110, from Nova Scotia, Wendy, and the standards Jewel and

Annapolis. This trial will be harvested in Avonmore, Brampton and Barrie.

2009 strawberry trial: This is a big trial with 5 selections from Minnesota, and 5 selections from Adam Dale's program, including newly released R14. This trial will be harvested at London, Simcoe, Innerkip, Dunnville, Bowmanville. The Minnesota selections are also being tested at an organic site near Napanee.

The new raspberry varieties Moutere and Glen Ample were planted out at three location in 2008 and observations will be made in 2010. So far the flavour on Moutere is disappointing.

Many thanks to the growers who host these trials on their farms.

Pam



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www.strawberrytyme.com

New registrations for berry crops:

The following berry crop registrations were finalized after our publications went to press. Read the label for extra details.

Product: Sinbar Herbicide Wettable Powder (80% terbacil)

PCP number: 10628

Crop: raspberries

Pests: Many annual weeds and grasses (see label)

Registrant: Tessenderlo Kerley, Inc

Comments: Previously registered for raspberries in British Columbia and now registered Canada-wide. Use on plantings over 1 year old and on soils with organic matter above 8-10%. Tank-mixed with Devrinol. Injury is likely on coarse or sandy soils. Raspberry cultivar "Royalty" is susceptible to damage. Apply early spring before weed emergence. AVOID CONTACT WITH RASPBERRY FOLIAGE.



Product: ASSAIL 70 WP (acetamidiprid 70%)

PCP number: 27128

Crop: strawberries, blueberries, bushberries

Pests: aphids, tarnished plant bugs (strawberries) and blueberry maggot (blueberries) and aphids on bushberry crop group (blueberries, currants, gooseberries, elderberries)

Canadian registrant or distributor: E.I. Dupont Canada

Comments: On strawberries, maximum 2 applications per season. Preharvest interval is 1 day to harvest. On blueberries, preharvest interval is 7 days. Toxic to bees.

Product: Admire 240 F (240 g/L imidacloprid)

PCP number: 24094

Crop: strawberries

Pests: aphids

Registrant: Bayer CropScience

Comments: now labelled for first –year plantings. Use as a soil drench shortly after planting when new growth begins.

Product: Microthiol Disperss (80% sulphur)

PCP number: 29487

Crop: saskatoons

Pests: Entomosporium leaf and berry spot

Registrant: United Phosphorus Inc.

Comments: same use pattern as Kumulus

Product: Echo 720 (chlorothalonil 720 g/L)

PCP number: 29355

Crop: Strawberries, blueberries

Pests: Botrytis (strawberries) and anthracnose, alternaria, phomopsis on blueberry. Same use pattern as for Bravo 500

Canadian agent or distributor: United Agri-Products

Comments: This is another formulation of chlorothalonil with the same use pattern as Bravo 500

Product: Bloomtime Biological Biopesticides

PCP number: 28436

Crop: raspberries, saskatoon berries

Pests: fireblight suppression

Canadian agent or distributor: Northwest Agricultural Products, currently there are no distributors in Ontario that I know of.

Comments: This product is registered for firelight suppression. Spray 1st application at 15-20% bloom, 2nd

application at full bloom to petal fall. We are looking for sites to test this product on raspberries. Product has specific storage requirements.

Product: Poast Ultra (+ Merge)

PCP number: 24835

Crop: bushberries (this is a crop grouping that includes currants, gooseberries, saskatoon berries, sea buckthorn, elderberry)

Pests: Grassy weeds

Canadian agent or distributor: BASF Canada Inc.

Comments: Preharvest interval is 15 days. Apply to quackgrass at the 3 leaf-stage or annual grasses at the 1-6 leaf stage, except 1-4 for volunteer grain. Since not all bushberry species and varieties have been tested for tolerance to Poast Ultra, first use should be limited to a small area of each species or variety to confirm tolerance prior to adoption as a general field practice.



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Promotional Materials

We have in stock promotional brochures for strawberries, raspberries and blueberries. The brochures have been improved and are quite attractive.

The cost of the brochures is \$5.00 per hundred which is half of the cost of production. Placemats are also available at the same price. The reusable strawberry bags have gone over very well. We should have a supply of biodegradable plastic bags in soon and they are priced at \$20.00 per thousand.



CHC Food Safety Manuals

The OBGA has a very good supply of Food Safety Manuals from the Canadian Hort. Council. Manuals are available in both French and English. If you would like a copy sent to you please contact the OBGA office.

Food safety workshops for On-Farm Food Safety

The following workshops are currently available for any group that would like food safety education:

- Irrigation water
- Post harvest water
- Hygiene and hand washing
- Manures and composts
- Traceability
- Multi-Commodity on-farm food safety
- Risk assessment
- Compost tea
- And introducing: Persistent Pollutants – information for Urban Farmers

Irrigation water

Do you wonder about the quality of your irrigation water and its potential effect on food safety? Do you know how to take a proper water sample from your pond? Do you know where to send your sample and how do you interpret the

results? This session will answer these questions and more.

Post harvest water

Do you wash your produce with recycled water? If yes, attend this session and learn about:

- o the risks of using poor quality water
- o pros and cons of some commonly used sanitizers
- o factors that can alter the effectiveness of sanitizers, and
- o ways to monitor sanitizer levels

Hygiene and hand washing

Do you have workers that handle produce? This session will give you the information you need to train your workers.

Manures and composts

Do you use manure, compost or compost teas? This session covers:

- o the potential risks to ready to eat crops
- o issues with making compost
- o the do's and don'ts on applying, handling and storing manure and/or compost

Traceability

Are you considering a traceability system for your operation? This session will:

- o increase your understanding of what traceability means for your operation
- o highlight the benefits to your business

Multi-commodity on-farm food safety

Do you have both livestock and edible crops on your operation? Learn about the food safety practices that will help you reduce the risk of cross-contamination

Risk assessment

Identify and assess your food safety risks on the farm, and measures you can take to minimize those risks.

Safe use of compost teas

Do you use compost tea or are interested in learning more about compost tea? Attend this workshop to learn about the risks of using compost tea and how to avoid them.

Persistent Pollutants – Information for Urban Farmers

You asked, we listened. This is a new workshop based on demand.

Unsure about the food safety risks of heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants in your crops? Attend this session to learn more about the risks and what you can do.

If you are interested in any of the above workshops, give us a call. We are happy to provide these workshop free, to groups of 8 or more.

Can't find a workshop to suit your needs? Let us know! We will add new workshops on other topics based on demand.

For more information:

Toll Free: 1-877-424-1300

Local: (519) 826-4047

E-mail: ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca

School Delivery Program

The OBGAs are looking for a small number of farms to deliver strawberries and/or raspberries to schools in September and early October. This program is part of our Ontario Market Investment Fund project. The OBGAs have funds to help support this program but the final details of how the funding will be spent has not

been decided. If you are interested or want to know more contact the OBGA office.

Research Funding

A new source of funding has been provided by Agriculture Canada through the Canadian Horticulture Council's "Canadian AgriScience Cluster for Horticulture". Over 1 million dollars has been approved for berry research over 3 years. University of Guelph researchers have been approved for \$110,000 a year for three years for strawberry and raspberry research. The OBGA will fund approximately 25% of the total amount.

OBGA Twilight Meeting

Mark your calendars for Wednesday September 15th for the Annual OBGA Twilight Meeting. This year's meeting will be hosted by Dan and Jeff Tigchelaar at their farm in Vineland. The meeting will commence at 4:00 pm and will consist of a farm tour and end with a BBQ and refreshments

Dayneutral Strawberry Cultivars for Ontario Producers

Becky Hughes, John Zandstra and Adam Dale, University of Guelph

Dayneutral strawberries are relatively new to Ontario. A number of dayneutral cultivars are available but most were developed in California and, therefore, may not be well suited to Ontario.

Dayneutral cultivar trials were established in 2005 at the University of Guelph Research Stations located at Cedar Springs and Simcoe in southwestern Ontario, and New Liskeard in northeastern Ontario. The trial was also grown under a Haygrove high tunnel at Cedar Springs resulting in

four environments and six cultivars with four replications.

Four vegetatively-propagated cultivars and two seed-propagated cultivars were compared in the Ontario trials.

Dayneutral strawberry plants produce relatively few runners, making it difficult to propagate them economically in the relatively short growing season in Ontario. Seed propagated F1-hybrid strawberry cultivars have been used on a limited scale in Europe. Dormant bare-root plants of Albion, Diamonte and Seascape were obtained from commercial nurseries. Seed of Elan and Milan F1 hybrids was obtained from the Netherlands and plug plants were produced in Simcoe for all four sites.

Twenty-plant plots were established with 20cm between plants and 30cm between rows on raised beds covered with black polyethylene mulch. Each plot consisted of two rows on beds at 1.5 and 1.7m centers in New Liskeard and Cedar Springs, respectively. In Simcoe, plots consisted of 4 rows on beds at 1.8m centers. The plots were planted May 6/05, May 30/05 and June 6/05 at Cedar Springs, Simcoe and New Liskeard, respectively. Trickle irrigation was located below the plastic and all plots received regular irrigation and liquid fertilizer applications. Cultural practices were adapted to the local soil and climate. In New Liskeard the plants were covered with straw mulch covered with a 1.5 oz/sq yd floating row cover for the winter. In Cedar Springs, a winter floating row cover only was used and, in Simcoe, the plants were not covered for the winter.

The blossoms were removed for the first six weeks after planting, and thereafter fruit was harvested twice weekly in the first and second year. Fruit was sorted into marketable (no rot and regularly shaped with a diameter greater than 1.5 cm) and unmarketable. The marketable fruit was weighed and counted, and berry weights were calculated.

The results depended on the year and environment. In the first picking year, the two hotter environments, Simcoe and Cedar Springs' tunnel had lower yields and berry size than the two cooler environments, New Liskeard and Cedar Springs outside (Table 1). Milan and Elan produced large numbers of moderate-sized fruits at Simcoe, whereas Tribute and Seascape performed better in the two cooler environments. The largest fruit was usually produced by Albion at all sites.

In the second picking year, Seascape and Tribute had the highest yields at all sites although the yields of Milan and Elan were only slightly lower (Table 1). Albion and Diamonte were large fruited but lower yielding. Diamonte had low winter survival at all sites averaging 74% plant survival (Table 2). At Simcoe, the plants were not protected for the winter and the low yields of Diamonte, Milan and Elan could be related to higher winter damage even though the plants survived. Albion had a much lower survival rate in New Liskeard than the other sites. The use of a tunnel at Cedar Springs increased the yields of Albion in year two.

The high percent unmarketable in New Liskeard tended to be due to tarnished plant bug damage, while in Simcoe, it was due to berry size and rot. Albion rated higher than Seascape for fruit quality in the ratings done in New Liskeard and Simcoe (data not shown).

Overall, Seascape and Tribute consistently produced high yields at all sites, but Seascape has larger fruit. Milan and Elan produced moderate yields, but the fruit was generally small. Albion and Diamonte produced large fruit but low yields. Of these two, Albion appears more adapted to southern Ontario conditions and its high fruit quality make it more suited to certain markets.

Of the cultivars tested to date, Seascape continues to be the most adapted to Ontario conditions. Albion has larger fruit and higher fruit quality than Seascape but it is later, produces lower yields and is not as winter hardy. It may be possible to adapt the cultural conditions to improve yields of Albion as it seemed to perform better in the tunnel at Cedar Springs in the second year.

Several new dayneutral cultivars have become available since 2005. These are currently being evaluated at trials in Cedar Springs and New Liskeard.

North American Strawberry Growers Association
2010 Summer Tour
Tuesday/Wednesday, August 17-18, 2010

The tour will be based out of the Intercontinental Hotel in Old Montreal. www.montreal.intercontinental.com

Tour highlights include innovative growers, fabulous farm markets, nurseries and a farm machinery exhibit. Plus the opportunity to visit historic Montreal with its beautiful architecture, fabulous food and wonderful nightlife.



Day 1

Montreal Central Produce Market

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D&M Sauriol Berry Farm, *Laval*

Jean-Talon Market, *Montreal*

Day 2

Alain Masse' Nursery, *St-Césaire*

Michel Jodoin Cider, *St-Césaire*

Novafruit, *St-Paul d'Abbotsford*

Lunch at a Traditional Maple Sugar Shack

Machinery Demonstration for Berry Growers

Potager Gauvin, *Ange-Gardien*

For more information, please visit
www.nasga.org, or call Kevin Schooley
at 613.258.4587.



Table 1. Total yields, percent marketable and average marketable berry weight of 6 cultivars at 4 sites in Ontario in 2005 and 2006.

Site	Cultivar	Total Yield (g/plant)			% Marketable		Berry Weight (g/berry)	
		2005	2006	Total	2005	2006	2005	2006
Simcoe	Albion	85	130	215	66	67	12.0	9.9
	Diamonte	66	46	112	50	48	10.3	10.6
	Elan F1	160	46	206	47	35	6.0	6.7
	Milan F1	191	51	242	49	46	7.1	7.4
	Seascape	82	195	277	67	62	8.4	7.8
	Tribute	73	159	232	48	50	6.9	7.2
Cedar Springs Tunnel	Albion	27	363	390	96	72	9.3	13.5
	Diamonte	17	233	250	98	69	7.8	14.4
	Elan F1	58	345	403	93	67	4.7	9.3
	Milan F1	89	358	447	89	67	5.1	9.7
	Seascape	21	437	458	98	74	4.6	10.5
	Tribute	87	442	529	94	71	4.8	9.6
Cedar Springs	Albion	95	241	336	90	75	11.2	15.3
	Diamonte	98	252	350	95	65	9.9	15.0
	Elan F1	60	273	333	95	60	4.8	10.8
	Milan F1	139	330	469	92	65	6.7	12.3
	Seascape	155	377	532	98	66	7.8	11.3
	Tribute	248	413	661	93	71	5.5	11.3
New Liskeard	Albion	103	107	210	65	55	14.7	13.4
	Diamonte	82	104	186	44	40	17.4	12.0
	Elan F1	157	282	439	51	41	7.4	8.1
	Milan F1	106	254	360	45	39	8.9	8.8
	Seascape	187	373	560	64	62	13.1	11.3
	Tribute	213	300	513	57	39	8.0	7.2

Table 2. Plant survival for 6 cultivars over the first winter.

Cultivar	% Winter Survival			
	Simcoe	CS Tunnel	Cedar Springs	New Liskeard
Albion	87	90	89	76
Diamonte	74	86	70	64
Elan F1	74	100	100	92
Milan F1	81	100	92	92
Seascape	99	100	100	91
Tribute	93	100	100	90