



May 2013 NEWSLETTER

Presidents Report

As some of you may know 2013 is a special year for my family as it marks our 50th year in the strawberry business. If you know me well you'll know that I love to tell our farm and family story so this year has been a great one thus far. I want to provide something meaningful with these reports so this address will be some small marketing tips before the season official gets underway.

If you find that you have the time it's also a great idea to draft a short press release about your forecasts for the upcoming season. Including a quote from you or a family member about you're excitement for a strong year ahead, expected start times and maybe how the weather is affecting the berry season in your area are all great things to include. Local journalists and news personalities are always looking for stories and we're fortunate to be growing the berries that people are always eager to hear about. Include the release on your website, sharing it online and sending it out to your contacts could get you a story or two but at minimum gives you a common area for you to answer the questions we all get around this time.

While on the topic of answering questions about the season I'd like to issue a small reminder and a plea as a fellow grower. It's a large province we're in and this season will be full of opportunities and challenges for each of us. Remember that when speaking about the season and possibly speaking about the challenges faced on your farm or in your region. We all know how

negative news runs and I encourage you to think of your friends growing in other areas when asked for a blanket statement about the berry crop.

A final note about an important member benefit of the OBGA, our association website. I'd invite you to check the site (www.ontarioberries.com) to insure your farm profile information is accurate as we have thousands of visitors through the berry season that could be looking for you. Also we will have an active Facebook and Twitter page that is always looking for new and creative content to share with consumers so follow along as we may be sharing your images, tweets or updates!

I wish each of you a bountiful harvest, stable prices and a great season.

Will Heeman
President

From OBGA Headquarters

Hopefully this morning is the last of the frosty mornings for everyone this season. There is some damage here in eastern Ontario but hopefully it is minimal. The strawberry plant is very resilient and able to compensate for lost bloom. Raspberries should be fine and blueberries are showing some bloom so there could be some damage there.

I know everyone is extremely busy but please take some time to review your marketing plans and order any of the promotional materials so they can arrive in time for the season. You can find a list in the newsletter or visit the Growers

and Members section of the website www.ontarioberries.com

Please have a look at your farms web listing on the OBGA site. Erin will be reviewing everyone's info and she may be contacting you for more information.

I hope the weather cooperates and we have a bountiful season of berries and all the crops you grow and market.

All the best!

Kevin

Achene Report

The Achene committee met in March and areas that we continue to work on include succession planning. A second meeting was held with the Dean of OAC and the VP of Research at the University of Guelph. We believe we have let them know our needs and concerns and although they understand our challenges they are battling a shrinking research budget. We will continue dialogue but we may need to look at some new ideas to help fund research activities at the University.

The committee has been approached by a strawberry plug propagator who would like to be recognized under the Ontario Propagation Program. With plug production being something new we have a small group looking at adjusting our guidelines to include plug production.

We welcomed a new member to our committee. Sandra Carther will sit on the Achene Committee as a propagator representative.

Verification trials are visited every summer to ensure plants coming out of our program are true to type and free of disease. If you are interested in being a part of this process please contact Kevin

at the OBGA office. The trials are grown at Strawberry Tyme in Simcoe.

Sincerely,
Paul Watson
Achene Committee Chair



Strawberry & Raspberry Plants

Your **ONLY** supplier of strawberry & raspberry plants grown under the guidelines of the **'Ontario Plant Propagation Program'**

All plants grown by us are treated with the Amino Acid **'PHCA'** which helps kick start the plants in the spring when planted.

Ask us about this amazing fertilizer! A followup fertility program which includes **'PHCA'** is highly recommended to maximize the potential of the plant.

Also available - Blueberry Plants, Blackberry Canes, Yellow, Purple & Black Raspberry Canes, Asparagus Roots, Rhubarb Roots, Horseradish Roots.

 R.R. #2 Simcoe, ON Canada N3Y 4K1 
Phone: 1-519-426-3099 Fax: 1-519-426-2573
www.strawberrytyme.com

Membership

We are pleased to have more new members join us for 2013. New since the last newsletter is:

Mississippi Berries
Wallace Farms

Erin has sent out email reminders and if your membership is still outstanding you may have found a reminder in the newsletter. I encourage everyone to pay their memberships so we don't have to turn off your information featured on the OBGA website.

OBGA Promotional Items

Order your OBGA promotional items now! To view photos of available items

go to www.ontarioberries.com and go to the Grower Member Section.

Poly bags are now available. The poly bags are biodegradable are clear in colour and very strong. We have 200,000 and once they are gone we likely won't get any more until next year. They are expensive to ship. Pick up locations will include Strawberry Tyme Farms, Watson's Farm, the Toronto Food Terminal and the OBGAs office.

I will be sending out reminders via email to encourage orders prior to the picking season.

Saskatoon Berry Production Manual

Growers now have a comprehensive guide in the *Saskatoon Berry Production Manual*. Topics in this resource include the following: biology of the plant, propagation, cultivars, orchard establishment, cultural practices, pruning techniques, plant health, harvest and post-harvest management as well as basic marketing. Full-colour images, line drawings, tables and charts enhance the information in the book text. Saskatoon berry experts from across the prairies collaborated on the manual to create a valuable reference for anyone growing Saskatoon berries. In addition, a detailed Appendix provides supplementary resource material to help answer any questions growers may have.

Copies of this book cost \$15.00 and may be purchased by:

- Calling 1-800-292-5697 (toll-free in Canada) or 780-427-0391.
- Cheque or money order, please complete the [order form](#) and send it to our Publications Office.
- On-line credit card purchase by accessing the [on-line](#) sales website.

National Raspberry and Strawberry Research and Promotion Council Update

The Raspberry proposal as you know was submitted and the opportunity to provide comment and support was open until the end of April. We will now wait and see what the outcome of this process is and determine what the next steps if any will be.

The Strawberry proposal is still scheduled to be submitted at the end of the summer but the outcome of the raspberry initiative may have an impact on how this proposal. Since the last newsletter the group from Quebec continued to try and gain support from all those impacted by this project. They attended the Canadian Produce Marketing Association's annual meeting in Toronto and met with several key players.

The OBGAs has sought some clarification on what type of organization would be required to function under such a council and it looks like we may have to form an organization that has mandatory membership such as some form of marketing board. We believe this would not impact current members but would force those not participating in the OBGAs to become a member. Statistics Canada claims there are more than 660 strawberry growers in Ontario! If that is the case we only have one quarter of them as members. That certainly would give us some extra funds to manage the affairs of the organization.

If we receive any updates or newsletters regarding the raspberry or strawberry initiative we will forward them to you.

If you have any questions feel free to contact Kevin at the OBGAs office.

New Products Registered for Berry Crops in 2013

Pam Fisher, Berry Crop Specialist
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food
and Ministry of Rural Affairs

The new 2013 Supplement to Publication 360, Guide to Fruit Production, is now available from your local OMAFRA Resource Centre.

This supplement is available on –line at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/pub360/sup/pub360sup.pdf>

The full version of Publication #360, Guide to Fruit Production, is also on line at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/pub360/p360toc.htm>

Here are is a list of the new products for berry crops. More details are in the 2013 supplement.
Insecticides

1. **Actara 25 WG** (thiamethoxam) is a Group 4 insecticide registered for black vine weevil adults on **strawberries**. Do not apply until after bloom. Highly toxic to bees. **Pre-harvest interval (PHI):** 3 days
2. **Admire 240 F** (imidacloprid) is a Group 4 insecticide with many new uses on the label. It can be used as a foliar spray on **blueberries** for control of aphids, blueberry maggot, Japanese beetle adults, or suppression of leafhoppers, and for control of aphids and suppression of leafhoppers on **strawberries, currants, gooseberries, saskatoon berries, elderberries** and many of the other crops in the **bushberry crop group 13B**. Admire can also be applied as a soil application for control of aphids and suppression of white grubs in strawberries. **PHI:** depends on use pattern and crop. Read the label carefully.
- Do not use both a soil application and a foliar application of Admire, or any other group 4 insecticide, in the same year.
- Do not spray during the bud or bloom stage or when bees are actively foraging. Highly toxic to bees.
3. **Altacor** (chlorantraniliprole) is a Group 28 insecticide registered on the **bushberry crop group** (blueberries, currants, elderberries, saskatoon berries) for control of cranberry fruitworm, cherry fruitworm, obliquebanded leafroller, blueberry spanworm, and for suppression of Japanese beetle. **PHI** : 1 day
4. **Matador 120 EC** and **Silencer 120 EC** (lambda-cyhalothrin) are Group 3 insecticides registered for black vine weevil control in **strawberries**. These products are effective at knocking down adult weevils after harvest, but like all insecticides in group 3 (pyrethroids), they break down more quickly and may be less effective at high temperatures (over 27C). Pyrethroids are also very toxic to bees and to predators of cyclamen mites and two-spotted spider mites. **PHI:** 7 days
5. **Pyganic Crop Protection EC 1.4 II** is a Group 3 insecticide registered on **blueberries** and **raspberries** for aphid and leafhopper control. Pyganic has very short residual activity, breaks down quickly in sunlight and is highly toxic to bees. May be approved for some organic production systems. Check with your organic certifier. **PHI:** 12 hours
6. **Warhawk 480 EC** (chlorpyrifos) is Group 1B insecticide registered for cutworm control in **strawberries**, so useful in the planting year. This is a

new registration of an older, organophosphate product, also highly toxic to bees. **PHI:** 20 days

Fungicides:

7. **Flint Fungicide** (trifloxystrobin) is a group 11 fungicide registered for powdery mildew control on **strawberries**. This product is in the same fungicide group as Pristine and Cabrio. Do not rotate with these products. **PHI:** 0 days.
8. **Fontelis** (penthiopyrad) is a Group 7 fungicide registered on **strawberries** for the control of botrytis grey mould. Fontelis is in the same fungicide group as Cantus, Lance and Pristine. Do not rotate with these products. **PHI:** 0 days
9. **MustGrow Crop Biofumigant** (oriental mustard seed meal) is a biofumigant, formulated as pellets, registered for suppression of red stele and root lesion nematode in **strawberries** and suppression of phytophthora root rot and root lesion nematode in **raspberries**. Apply with a calibrated spreader, in early spring when soil temperatures are above 10 C, but at least 2 weeks before planting. Incorporate into the upper soil layer to a depth of 10-15 cm, followed by irrigation to ensure the top 10-15 cm of soil is well moistened.
10. **Phostrol fungicide** (mono and dibasic sodium, potassium and ammonium phosphites) is a Group 33 fungicide, registered for suppression of phytophthora root rot on **raspberries** and control of leather rot on **strawberries**. **PHI:** 1 day on raspberries and 3 days on strawberries.
11. **Quadris Flowable Fungicide** is a Group 11 fungicide registered for suppression of black root rot on **strawberries** in the **year of planting**. Apply once in-furrow at planting or a banded drench application immediately after planting to up to 8 days after planting. The pre-harvest interval is 365+ days, so do not use this on day-neutrals.
12. **Quash Fungicide** is a Group 3 fungicide registered for control of mummyberry, anthracnose and phomopsis control on **blueberries**. Quash is in the same fungicide group as Topas, Mission, Jade and Funginex, but has a shorter preharvest interval. **PHI:** 12 days.
13. **Regalia Maxx** (extract of *Reynoutria sachalinensis*) is a biofungicide registered for suppression of powdery mildew on **strawberries**. There is little or no experience with this product in Ontario. Test on a small scale before using more broadly. Regalia Maxx works by stimulating plant defence mechanisms. It works best if applied before there is disease present. Repeat applications at 7-10 day intervals. Use this product in rotation with conventional fungicides. **PHI:** 0 days
14. **Tivano** (citric acid + lactic acid) is a biofungicide registered for suppression of angular leaf spot and powdery mildew on **strawberries**. There is little or no experience with this product in Ontario. Test on a small scale before using more broadly. Multiple applications at 7-10 day intervals are required for control. **PHI:** not specified on label.

Keep in touch with these OMAF and MRA resources

The Berry Bulletin will be starting shortly with updates on crop and pest development in Ontario berry crops. You

can have the Berry Bulletin emailed to your inbox, or sent to you by fax. This service is provided by the Ontario Berry Growers Association to their members... don't forget to ask for it by contacting the OBGGA office. Although the bulletin is also posted in the OMAF and MRA website, it is not archived there. You can subscribe to receive an email notice when a new berry bulletin is posted on line:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/crops/updates/berry/index.html>

I am also on Twitter! You can follow me on twitter: @fisherpam. I try to follow many berry growers.

Are you interested in specialty crops and specialty berries like haskaps, goji berries and sea buckthorn? The ON Specialty Crops Blog keeps growers up to date with specialty crop news.

www.ONSpecialtycrops.wordpress.com

On Farm Food Safety: Your Business Advantage Hand Washing

By: Sandra Jones

Although not a substitute for soap and water, hand sanitizers can be used to reduce the risk of transferring germs through touch, when water is unavailable in the field. The majority of hand sanitizers contain alcohol as the active ingredient. It is important to check the label as concentrations will vary. Hand sanitizers need to contain at least 60 per cent alcohol to work properly. To use, first use a sanitizing wipe to remove the physical dirt, then place gel sanitizer on the palm of your hand and rub thoroughly over your entire hand – on both sides and in between fingers. How much gel sanitizer is required? As a general rule, if hands feel dry after only 10 seconds more sanitizer is needed.

Food safety practices keep Agri-food businesses competitive, productive and sustainable. For more information, visit the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ministry of Rural Affairs website at

www.ontario.ca/goodagpractices or call us at 1-877-424-1300.

On Farm Food Safety: Your Business Advantage

Protecting Your Irrigation Water Source

By: Wayne Du

The current Canadian irrigation water guideline for fecal coliforms (*E. coli*) is less than 100 bacteria per 100 ml water. It is important to protect your irrigation water source from contamination. Here are some tips to maintain irrigation water quality:

- Be aware of sources of potential water contamination, such as run-off or storm sewer overflows and/or livestock upstream.
- Restrict livestock access by fencing ponds or streams wherever possible
- Use buffer strips as natural filters and a waterfowl deterrent
- Construct holding ponds to divert and contain runoff
- Protect well heads from run-off water and other contaminants

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www.ontario.ca/goodagpractices or call us at 1-877-424-1300.

Are aphids a problem in strawberries?

Pam Fisher

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and
Ministry of Agriculture

The strawberry aphid can be a problem in strawberries because it is a vector of several virus diseases, including strawberry mottle virus, strawberry mild yellow edge virus, and strawberry vein-banding virus. These aphid-borne virus diseases were common in many strawberry fields last year. The presence of two or more viruses may be contributing to the early decline and low vigour that many growers are noticing in their fields.

The strawberry aphid has a restricted host range, feeding only on strawberries and closely related wild hosts such as potentilla and cinquefoil. Virus diseases which build up in older strawberry plantings can be easily spread by strawberry aphid to new fields. It overwinters on strawberry plants and builds up on new growth. Populations generally peak in May or June in Ontario. It is important to control strawberry aphid early in the season on established fields, and shortly after planting in new plantings.

Start with an early season application of Admire, followed up if necessary by applications of Assail or Thionex. Do not neglect new plantings. See OMAF and MRA publication #360, Guide to Fruit Production, and the product label for complete details.

The strawberry aphid is a problem in strawberries, because it is a vector of virus disease. Ontario strawberry growers should change their pest management programs to include early season aphid control.

Spotted wing drosophila update 2013

Pam Fisher

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and
Ministry of Rural Affairs

Beware of spotted wing drosophila!

This invasive insect spread rapidly across Ontario on 2012, and much of north-eastern America. Blueberries, fall-bearing raspberries, blackberries and day-neutral strawberries were the most affected. We think spotted wing drosophila is here to stay.

With financial support from the Ontario Berry Growers Association, the Eastern Ontario Berry Growers Association and the Ontario Tender Fruit Marketing Board, we hope to secure funding as part of a Canadian Horticulture Council Agri-Science cluster project. This funding will help us maintain our SWD monitoring network across Ontario in 2013 and 2014. We don't know how the winter will affect populations, and will keep growers up to date on the build-up of this pest across Ontario.

When fruit is ripening, and when traps show that SWD is active in an area, it's time to apply insecticides on your farm. Don't wait until SWD is trapped on your farm, but make decisions based on its activity in the region. Growers should also be watching for early signs of fruit damage, by placing samples of fruit in salt water and checking for small SWD larvae which float to the surface.

We have applied for emergency-use registrations to control SWD and hope to have Malathion, Ripcord and Delegate registered for SWD control in 2013. This nasty pest requires **both** insecticides and other management practices maintain acceptable control. Management and monitoring guidelines have been updated on the OMAF and MRA website. Emergency use registrations and weekly updates on SWD activity will be posted here as well. Be sure to review this information and check back for updates:

www.ontario.ca/spottedwing

Controlling common chickweed (*Stellaria media*) in strawberries

Kristen Callow, M.Sc., OMAF and MRA Weed Management Program Lead – Horticulture
Adapted from: <http://www.hort.uconn.edu/ipm/fruit/htmls/chckweed.htm>

CHARACTERISTICS:

Common chickweed is a winter annual. Winter annuals germinate in the late summer or fall, overwinter as small plants, then put on growth during the cool months of the spring. Most winter annuals cannot withstand hot weather, and will set seed and die in June or July. Common chickweed generally follows this pattern, but will sometimes also be seen to germinate through the spring and early summer, and plants can occasionally survive the summer in shaded areas.

Winter annuals are a particular problem for strawberry growers. In other crops, spring and/or fall tillage would disrupt the life cycle of this weed. In strawberries, the lack of tillage at these times and winter protection with mulch allows these weeds to survive and thrive. Renovation does not affect these weeds, as they have generally produced seeds by July.

Both common and mouse-ear chickweed are in the Caryophyllaceae, or 'pink' family. Well-known plants in this family include garden flowers such as carnations, Dianthus and Maltese cross. Other weeds in this family include mouse-ear chickweed and white cockle.

Common chickweed is edible, and leaves can be added to salads.

IMPORTANCE:

Because common chickweed is low growing and shallow rooted, its ability to compete with strawberries is limited. It can, however, make harvest difficult and pick-your-own operations unattractive. If chickweed is left uncontrolled for many years, populations can build up to the point where yields are impacted. When common chickweed is present in great numbers, lower leaves of strawberry plants can be shaded. In addition, heavy infestations of this weed could block air flow around strawberry plants, increasing the likelihood of fungal disease problems.

Table 1 – Examples of herbicides that are labeled to control chickweed

Strawberries	Potatoes	Corn	Soybean	Wheat
2,4-D (high rate)	Eptam	Aatrex 480	Optill	Refine SG
Betamix (US Label only)	Chateau (Western Canada Only)	Callisto + Aatrex 480	Pursuit, Phantom	Refine M
Chateau (US Label only)	Dual II Magnum	Converge XT	Prowl H20	Trophy
Devrinol	Lorox	Marksman	Sencor	
Dacthal 75 W	Sencor		Valtera	
Dual II Magnum				
Sinbar				
Treflan, Rival, Bonanza				

MANAGEMENT:

CHEMICAL: From Table 1 it appears that there are several herbicides that are registered in strawberries that will control chickweed. However, most if not all are restricted to when you can apply the herbicide during the crop growth stage. 2,4-D is not very effective on this weed. Labeled rates of Sinbar applied at mulching over emerged chickweed are generally ineffective. Effective control can be achieved with an application of Devrinol in late August. Since Devrinol does not control emerged weeds, it is important to make the application before emergence. While Dacthal can also control this weed from seed, residual control is too short to make this application cost effective. Dual II Magnum and Treflan should only be applied prior to planting strawberries; whereas, Chateau should only be applied to dormant plants. Betamix can only be applied to new June plantings, for a limited amount of time which may or may not coincide with chickweed emergence.

NONCHEMICAL: Cultivation between rows and a thorough hoeing in the late fall can be used to destroy overwintering seedlings. Control by hand is possible in the spring. This should be done as early in the season as possible, before plants begin to spread. Plants are not killed unless roots are destroyed. Crop rotation may be one of the most effective ways of preventing the build-up of chickweed. The conditions so favourable to chickweed in strawberries are not present in most other crops. Rotating out of strawberries every few years for several years at a time may be useful in keeping common chickweed and other strawberry weeds in check.

BOTTOM LINE: Use a combination of approaches for the most effective control of this weed.

Mark Your Calendars!

NASGA Summer Tour

Burlington Vermont

August 13,14 2013

www.nasga.org

OBGA Twilight Meeting

Brooks Farm, Mt Albert

September 10, 2013

OBGA Annual Meeting

Embassy Suites, Niagara Falls

February 18, 2014

Advertsing in the OBGA Newsletter

Target your audience by advertising in the OBGA newsletter.

Rates

Quarter Page	\$50 per issue	\$200 for 5 Issues
Half Page	\$90 per issue	\$360 for 5 Issues
Full Page	\$150 per issue	\$600 for 5 Issues

OBGA Promotional Items Order Form



Name: _____

Farm Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Item	Quantity	Price Per Item	Total Price of Item
Strawberry Brochures		\$10.00/ per 100	
Raspberry Brochures		\$10.00/ per 100	
Blueberry Brochures		\$10.00/ per 100	
OBGA Place-mats		\$5.00/ per 100	
Reusable Strawberry Bags		\$1.15 each	
Reusable Strawberry Bags with logo (OBGA or yours)		\$1.50 each Minimum order 50	
Biodegradable Clear Poly Bags with Colour OBGA Logo		\$26.00/per case of 1,000 bags	
Recipe Pads – 4 different recipes in colour		\$5.00/per package of 4 pads (each with 50 recipes)	
OBGA Post Signs		\$10.00 each	
OBGA Bib Apron		\$11.90	
OBGA Lap Apron		\$9.40	
HST Tax (13%):			
Final Total :			

**Please note that the cost of shipping is not included in the total price of your items!