

Kentucky Fruit Facts

July 2008/ (7/2008)

Fruit Facts can be found on the web at: <http://www.ca.uky.edu/fruitfacts/>

John Strang, Extension Fruit Specialist, Editor
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Fruit Crop News

by John Strang, U.K. Extension Fruit and Vegetable Specialist

Our U.K. extension support in the fruit and vegetable area has temporarily been dramatically reduced. I reported in the June Fruit Facts that Dr. John Hartman, our plant pathologist with fruit and ornamental responsibilities retired at the end of June after providing support for our growers for 37 years. Recently Dr. Kaan Kurtural our viticulturist announced that he accepted the Bronco Wine Company Endowed Chair in Viticulture in the Department of Viticulture and Enology at California State University in Fresno and will leave the horticulture department July 31. Dr. Joe Masabni, extension fruits and vegetables at U.K. Research and Education Center, Princeton accepted an Extension Vegetable Crops position at Texas A&M University in College Station and will also be leaving our department July 31. We are very appreciative of the expertise that these individuals have provided Kentucky and the progress that state has made under their direction. We wish them well in their future endeavors.

Both the plant pathology and horticulture departments are moving ahead in rehiring all of these positions. The viticulture position, which was previously supported with soft funding is being advertised as a twelve-month, tenure-track Assistant Extension Professor of Horticulture - Viticulture position (extension (60%) and research (40%), closing date October 31, 2008.

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We are pleased to welcome Dr. Rebecca Schenelli, Assistant Extension Professor for Floriculture and Greenhouse Crops and her husband Dan to Kentucky. Rebecca recently completed her Ph.D. at the University of Florida. She began working in the U.K. Horticulture Department July 1 in the position formerly held by Dr. Robert Anderson. She will oversee our greenhouse floriculture program and cover greenhouse vegetable production. Her phone number is 859-257-4721 and e-mail: rebecca.schenelli@uky.edu

Blueberry production is starting to slow down and blackberry and peach production are progressing well. Fruit quality and yields have generally been excellent. Birds weren't quite as bad this year in the small fruit due to an excellent alternative source of protein - cicadas. Many growers could use a rain about now to help with fruit sizing. Seedless table grape harvest is just beginning and many wine grapes are beginning to color up. Green June beetles are abundant and actively feeding on fruit, while Japanese beetle numbers are generally lower than last season due to last years drought.

Apple growers should be aware that the second codling moth biofix is very close. Concentrate on sooty blotch and flyspeck and bitter rot in apples and brown rot on peaches. Grape growers should be concentrating on powdery and downy mildew as well as bitter rot and botrytis rot.

Upcoming Meetings

Jul. 31 Horticulture Research Farm Twilight Tour, Lexington, KY. See tour program below. Contact John Strang 859-257-5685.

Aug. 10-13 99th Annual Meeting of Northern Nut Growers Association, College Station, TX. For additional information send an email with the subject, "NNGA 2008 Meeting," to: icomserve@aol.com

Aug. 12 Apple/Peach Field Day, Mountain Horticulture Crops Research and Education Center, Fletcher, NC. For additional information contact David Lockwood, 865-074-7421 or email: dlockwood@utk.edu

Sept. 6 Pawpaw Workshop. KSU Research Farm, Frankfort, KY. Sponsored by Kentucky State University, The Pawpaw Foundation and The Ohio Pawpaw Growers Association. Early registration by August 1, 2008 is \$30. The registration fee covers informational handouts, the Ohio Pawpaw Growers Association Pawpaw Recipe Book, a Pawpaw foundation T-shirt, lunch and dinner. For more detailed information see the June Fruit Facts or visit the web site for registration information at: <http://www.pawpaw.kysu.edu/pawpaw/2008workshop.htm> Contact Kirk Pomper phone: 502-597-6174; email: kirk.pomper@kysu.edu

Sept. 25 U.K. Robinson Station Field Day, 130 Robinson Road, Jackson, KY 41339. Contact Terry Jones 606-666-2438 X 234.

October 18 Kentucky Nut Growers Association Fall Meeting, Immanuel Baptist Temple, 540 Second Street, Henderson, KY 42420. Please bring nuts to share for tasting. The luncheon will be pot luck and desserts, salads, main dishes and breads are all welcome. Mr. Hugh Ligon will host the meeting and can be contacted at 270-827-9044 for facility information. For additional information please contact Kirk Pomper at 502-597-5942; email: kirk.pomper@kysu.edu

Jan. 5-6, 2009 Kentucky Fruit & Vegetable Conference & Trade Show, Embassy Suites Hotel, Lexington, KY. Contact John Strang 859-257-5685 email: jstrang@uky.edu

Jan. 12-14, 2009 Mid-States Horticultural Expo (MSHE). Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center, (North Wing) Louisville, KY. Sponsored and managed by Kentucky Nursery and Landscape Association and Tennessee Nursery and Landscape Association. Contact Louree Walker: 931-473-3951; Fax, 931-473-5883; e-mail louree@tnla.com; url, <http://www.mshe.org>

Jan 21-24, 2009 Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group's Practical Tools and Solutions for Sustaining Family Farms 18th Annual Conference and Trade Show, Chattanooga Convention Center, Chattanooga, TN. Website: www.ssawg.org

Horticultural Research Farm Twilight Tour

Thursday July 31, 2008 (5:00 p.m. until dark)
4320 Emmert Farm Lane, Lexington, KY 40514

The U.K. Horticulture Department will host a twilight tour featuring current research and extension activities at the Horticultural Research Farm. Tours will begin at 5:00 p.m. Concurrent tours will be repeated twice until dark. Speakers will remain at their stops to discuss their work in more detail with tour participants between wagon stops. Tours will start at the research center parking lot. Cold drinks and specialty melons will be provided for participants.

The U.K. Horticultural Research Farm is located on the south side of Lexington approximately one block west of the intersection of Man O'War Boulevard and Nicholasville Road (U.S. 27). The entrance to the farm (Emmert Farm Lane) is off of Man O'War Boulevard at the traffic light opposite the entrance to the Lowe's and Walmart.

Questions? Contact: Pam Compton phone: 859-257-2909. e-mail: pscomp1@uky.edu

Program

Welcome -- Dewayne Ingram, Chair UK Horticulture Department

New Crops Information

Christy Cassady, Coordinator of New Crops Opportunities Center

Vegetable Tour

Tour Leaders - Dave Spalding & Nathan Howell

Tomato Pulsed Irrigation Study to Reduce Water Use

Tim Coolong, Ext. Vegetable Specialist

Watermelon Gummy Stem Blight and Squash Disease Trial

Kenny Seebold, Ext. Plant Pathologist

Specialty Melon and Muskmelon Variety Trial

John Strang, Ext. Fruit & Vegetable Specialist

Uba Tuba Pepper Studies

Janet Meyer, Hort. M.S. Student

Vegetable Tour (continued)

All American Vegetable Trials

Rick Durham, Ext. Consumer Horticulture Specialist

Fresh Market Tomato Variety Trial

Nathan Howard, Ext. Associate Vegetables

Vegetable Integrated Pest Management

Luke Hanks, Vegetable IPM Scout

Pumpkin Variety Trial

Amy Poston, Research Analyst

Sustainable Agriculture Vegetable & Fruit Tour

Tour Leaders – Bonnie Sigmon & Amanda Sears

Organic Mixed Vegetables and Small Fruit for CSA

Ben Abell, Horticulturist

Weed Management in Organic Mixed Vegetables

Mark Williams, Hort. Teaching & Research

Organic Pest Control, Equipment and High Tunnel Production

Derrek Law, Research Analyst

Organic Apple Production Study

Doug Archbold, Hort. Teaching & Research

Portable Cool Rooms

John Wilhoit, Ext. Biosystems & Agricultural Engineering Specialist

Woody Ornamental and Floriculture Tour

Tour leaders - Andrea Dee & Rebecca Schnelle

IR-4 Plant Growth Regulator Trials on Winter Red Holly

Bonka Vaneva, Research Analyst

Oak Leaf Hydrangia

Amy Fulcher, Hort. Ext. Associate Woody Ornamentals & Ph.D. Student

Greenhouse Operation

Stephen Berberich, Ext. Associate Floriculture Crops

Hydrangia Field and Tunnel Production

Sharon Bale, Ext. Floriculture Specialist

All American Flower Varieties

Rick Durham, Ext. Consumer Horticulture Specialist

Induction of Branching in Woody Ornamentals and IPM Scouting

Michelle Senn & Amy Fulcher, Undergraduate Student & Ext. Associate Woody Ornamentals

Fruit Tour

Tour Leaders – Jamie Dockery & Patti Meads

Kentucky Mesonet Weather Station

Rezaul Mahmood, Western Kentucky University

Raspberry and Blueberry Variety Trials

Terry Jones, Hort. Ext. Specialist

Grape Training, the Fan vs. VSP

Chris Smigell, Ext. Associate Small Fruit & Vegetables

Canopy Management

Patsy Wilson, Hort. M.S. Student

Grape Training Systems

Brandon O'Daniel, Hort. M.S. Student

Japanese Beetle and Green June Beetle Studies

Derrick Hammons, Entomology Ph.D. Student

Thornless Blackberry Pulsed Drip Irrigation

Richard Warner, Ext. Biosystems & Agricultural Engineering Specialist

Strawberry Slug Studies

Michael Eskelson, Entomology M.S. Student

Grape Wine Evaluation Studies

Tom Cottrell, Hort. Ext. Enologist

Taphrina-Caused Diseases Active this Spring

by John Hartman, U.K. Extension Plant Pathologist, Emeritus

Leaf curl and leaf blister diseases of fruits caused by the fungus *Taphrina* have been active this spring. At a spring fruit growers' meeting in central Kentucky peach leaf curl was very evident on many cultivars of young peach trees. Plum pockets, observed in past years, has not been reported in Kentucky yet this year, but perhaps that will change in the coming weeks.

Peach leaf curl, caused by the fungus *Taphrina deformans* occurs on peaches, apricots, and nectarines in Kentucky commercial orchards as well as in home landscapes. Peach leaf curl is easily recognized in late spring by the thickened, folded, puckered, and curled leaf blades. These symptoms may be present on the entire leaf or just on parts of the leaf. Infected leaves or parts of leaves soon acquire a red or purplish coloration, making them especially conspicu-

ous. In some cases, nearly every leaf on a tree may be infected. The diseased areas develop a powdery gray coating (fungal spores) and leaves may then turn brown, wither, and drop from the tree. Yearly defoliation resulting from peach leaf curl can seriously weaken the trees. Trees free of disease will bear better crops and withstand other diseases and environmental stresses more successfully

Plum pockets, caused by the fungus *Taphrina communis*, occurs on plums and may also be present in Kentucky this spring. Plum pockets symptoms are very obvious; infected fruit become distorted and much enlarged. With spongy or hollow centers, these malformed fruits are sometimes referred to as “bladder plums,” “mock plums,” or “plum pockets.” Deformed fruits eventually turn brown or black and fall from the tree. Leaves and tips of plum pockets-infected shoots appear swollen and are often twisted and curled.

There are many other species of *Taphrina* and several different Kentucky landscape hosts may be affected including alder, birch, elm, hornbeam, maple, poplar and prunus.

Disease spread. Spores produced on infected leaves during the spring and summer are spread to other plants by wind and rain. Spores of the fungus, in a different form, become lodged under the bud scales and rough bark. The fungus remains there throughout the summer and winter months until the next spring infection period. In spring, when buds begin to swell, germinating spores of the fungus penetrate and infect the developing leaves, causing leaf curl or leaf blister symptoms to appear some weeks later. Twig and fruit infection can also occur; fully expanded leaves are not susceptible. *Taphrina*-caused diseases are more severe when early spring weather is cool and wet as it was during April and May in Kentucky this spring.

Disease management. To control *Taphrina*-caused diseases such as peach leaf curl and plum pockets, a single fungicide application needs to be made during the dormant season before buds swell in spring. Late fall, after leaf drop is usually a better time to spray for leaf curl or plum pockets because the weather is dry and it is easier to move equipment through the orchard. In addition, peach and plum buds sometimes begin to swell during mid-winter thaws leaving the grower no chance to control the disease in early spring. Fungicides will not control peach leaf curl or plum pockets once buds begin to swell in spring and infection has occurred.

On fruit crops, the choice of fungicides for dormant sprays include chlorothalonil (Bravo); ferbam (Carbamate); Ziram; or fixed copper fungicides such as copper hydroxide (Kocide), copper oxychloride (COCS), or Bordeaux mixture. Thorough coverage of the twigs and branches is essential. For further information on stone fruit disease management, consult U.K. Cooperative Extension publication ID-92, 2008 Commercial Tree Fruit Spray Guide, available from County Extension Offices statewide

The North American Raspberry and Blackberry Association

(www.raspberrylblackberry.com)

The objectives of the North American Raspberry & Blackberry Association (NARBA) are:

- a) to promote the production and marketing of raspberries and blackberries in North America through communication, education, and research
- b) to provide a unified voice to represent the bramble industry
- c) to promote blackberries and raspberries to the general public

NARBA is governed by a board of directors (called the Executive Council) elected by the members. The Council elects the organization’s President and Vice President.

The association was incorporated as the North American Bramble Growers Association (NABGA) in NY in 1985. It received its federal tax-exempt status (as an agricultural, or 501(c)(5) organization) in 1987.

In 1998, NABGA also created a separate but allied organization called the North American Bramble Growers Research Foundation (NABG-RF) to receive donations and make grants to bramble research. All donations to the NABG-RF, which is a charitable 501(c)(3) organization, are tax-exempt.

In 2005, the organization made a commitment to the following goals and objectives:

- Promotion of blackberries and raspberries to the consuming public by disseminating a positive and effective message through various channels of communication.
- Identifying issues and problems affecting the general interest of bramble growers and providing a unified voice to represent the bramble industry.

- Strengthening the organization's services to its members, with improved communications among all associated with the bramble industry, and improved accessibility by interested individuals to educational programs of the organization. In 2008, the name was changed to "North American Raspberry & Blackberry Association" by vote of members at the association's annual meeting. Funding for NARBA comes primarily from membership dues. There are several types of membership:

- Grower (\$85/year, with introductory first-year dues of \$50). Growers also pay a \$5/acre acreage assessment. Twenty five percent of grower dues go directly to the NABG-RF to support research.
- Research or Associate (\$40/year), for researchers, extension, and similar professionals.
- Industry (\$150/year) for suppliers, marketers, processors, and similar businesses associated with the raspberry and blackberry industry.
- Affiliate organization (\$150/year) for state, regional, and other organizations whose members raise raspberries and/or blackberries or whose purposes are related to those of NARBA. Members of affiliate organizations may receive discounts on membership in NARBA. Click for more information or an affiliate application.
- In September, 2007, the Foundation initiated a Nursery Contribution Program, asking blackberry/raspberry nurseries to contribute \$.01 per plant sold to the Foundation. All donations to the Research Foundation qualify as charitable contributions.

Funds for NABG-RF come from several sources, including membership dues (a quarter of all grower membership dues goes directly to the Research Foundation), donations, and fundraising events, such as the "Taste of the Berry Fields" socials held at NARBA conferences. As of 2007, the Foundation has granted more than \$63,000 to more than 34 different projects at universities in the U.S. and the USDA research centers.

The Foundation maintains close links with the North American Raspberry & Blackberry Association but has its own Board of Trustees and bylaws, as well as a separate Research Committee that evaluates proposals and makes recommendations to this Board of Trustees for funding. Each year funds are available for grants, a Call for Proposals is developed in the fall and emailed to interested researchers and posted on NARBA's website. Funding priorities for the year are decided by the

NARBA Executive Council in consultation with the NABG-RF Research Committee and other leaders in the industry. The process is coordinated by the chair of the Research Committee, Gina Fernandez, NC State University.

From its inception, NARBA has published a quarterly newsletter, *The Bramble*. It has held conferences, tours, and meetings all over the country, often in association with the North American Strawberry Association, with which it shares an overlapping membership.

Benefits of Membership

There are many benefits to becoming a member of the North American Raspberry & Blackberry Association, whether you are a grower, researcher, supplier, processor, or marketer. These benefits include:

- The Bramble, NARBA's quarterly newsletter.
- The Proceedings of NARBA's annual conference.
- Our annual membership directory--listing for your farm or business, and access to other members.
- Access to the "Members Only" section of our website, which includes an on-line membership directory, the most recent newsletters, and downloadable and reproducible consumer handouts (recipes and berry health benefits handouts).
- E-mail alerts on important legislation, pesticide registrations, new resources, etc.
- A link to your website from ours and, for growers, a listing in NARBA's Searchable List of Member Farms.
- Discount subscriptions to major fruit publications
 - o American Fruit Grower published monthly by Meister Publishing Company, Willoughby, Ohio
 - o Fruit Grower News, published by Great American Publishing Company, Sparta, MI (Free to members in the U.S.)
 - o The Raspberry & Blackberry Production Guide, published by NRAES/Cornell.
- The opportunity to connect with growers and researchers all across North America who share your interests and concerns.

Scheduled Annual Conferences

- December 8-11, 2008: Grand Rapids, MI (replaces the Winter 2009 meeting), at the Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable, and Farm Market Expo.
- January/February 2010: California. Exact date and location to be determined.

For additional information, please contact:

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