



## Ohio Primocane Blackberry Observation

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### Introduction

Blackberries are commonly found growing on many Ohio farms across the state. Why primocane blackberries? Primocane blackberries fruit on the current season canes unlike many of the more traditional blackberries that fruit on the second year growth or floricanes. This means that the first year canes will have to overwinter and survive possible harsh winter conditions experienced in Ohio. With primocane blackberries, all the growth from the previous year is removed from the plant in late winter or early spring of the current growing season. These berries can produce fruit from late July until the first frost of the season. Another benefit of the primocane blackberry is the labor needed to prune the berries is significantly reduced. You are able to just mow the canes off before the plant starts to come out of dormancy.

### Results

In 2007, seven cultivars of primocane blackberries were observed with harvest data collected and recorded. Prime Jan produced the most marketable pounds per acre (7998 lbs), and had 1.86 lbs per plant. Prime Jim was the lowest yielding berry (2086 lbs) out of the seven cultivars.

In 2008 and 2009, ten cultivars of primocane blackberries were observed with harvest data collected and recorded. In both years, APF 77 yielded the most marketable pounds per acre (8881 lbs. 2008 and 8494 lbs. 2009). In 2008, APF 41 produced the second most marketable pounds per acre (6146 lbs) and in 2009, APF 40 produced the second most marketable pounds (5352 lbs).

In 2010, four cultivars were removed from the observation. APF 77 once again was the cultivar with the largest amount of marketable pounds per acre (6316 lbs). It also had the largest number of marketable pounds per plant (1.36 lbs).

We thank our research partner Dr. John Clark of the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture's fruit breeding program who has developed these cultivars and has allowed us to test them under southern Ohio conditions.

**Table 1: 2007 Yield Data.**

Cultivar	Marketable lbs per		Marketable lbs per
	Plot	Plant	Acre
APF 27	11.41	.95	4077
APF 40	13.49	.89	4817
APF 41	14.84	1.23	5300
APF 46	16.83	1.12	6012
APF 77	12.84	.98	4586
Prime Jan	22.39	1.86	7998
Prime Jim	5.84	.48	2086

*(continued)*

**Table 2: 2008 Yield Data.**

<b>Cultivar</b>	<b>Marketable lbs per Plot</b>	<b>Marketable lbs per Plant</b>	<b>Marketable lbs per Acre</b>
APF 27	9.88	.76	3531
APF 40	12.72	.84	4543
APF 41	17.21	1.43	6146
APF 45	2.55	.51	910
APF 46	15.26	1.27	5450
APF 52	5.60	.80	2001
APF 77	24.86	1.91	8881
APF 116	5.51	.55	1968
Prime Jan	10.60	.88	3786
Prime Jim	7.75	.64	2769

**Table 3: 2009 Yield Data.**

<b>Cultivar</b>	<b>Marketable lbs per Plot</b>	<b>Marketable lbs per Plant</b>	<b>Marketable lbs per Acre</b>
APF 27	10.77	.89	3849
APF 40	14.98	.99	5352
APF 41	14.02	1.16	5009
APF 45	2.72	.54	972
APF 46	14.59	1.21	5210
APF 52	4	.57	1428
APF 77	23.78	1.82	8494
APF 116	7.2	.72	2588
Prime Jan	9.23	.76	3297
Prime Jim	5.52	.046	1974

**Table 4: 2010 Yield Data.**

<b>Cultivar</b>	<b>Marketable lbs per Plot</b>	<b>Marketable lbs per Plant</b>	<b>Marketable lbs per Acre</b>
APF 40	10.57	.70	3777
APF 41	14.44	1.20	5160
APF 45	1.71	.34	613
APF 77	17.68	1.36	6316
Prime Jan	5.16	.43	1843
Prime Jim	3.07	.25	1097

<b>Cultivar</b>	<b>Number Plants per Row</b>	<b>Planting Date</b>
APF 27	12	2007
APF 40	15	2007
APF 41	12	2007
APF 45	5	2008
APF 46	12	2007
APF 52	7	2008
APF 77	13	2007
APF 116	10	2008
Prime Jan	12	2003
Prime Jim	12	2003