

# Ohio Fruit ICM News

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### **Calendar** - Newly added in ***Bold***

December 2, Getting Started in Grape Production and Getting Started in Bramble Production, Licking County Extension. Register by phone at 740-670-5315.

December 5-7, Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable and Farm Market EXPO. DeVos Place, Grand Rapids, Mich, [www.glexpo.com](http://www.glexpo.com).

December 5-8, Cider Makers Short Course Geneva NY. For more information contact Ian Merwin at 607-255-1777 or by email at [im13@postoffice8.mail.cornell.edu](mailto:im13@postoffice8.mail.cornell.edu).

December 6-7, Deep South Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference and Trade Show, Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel, Mobile, Alabama. For more information see [www.deepsouthfruitveg.com](http://www.deepsouthfruitveg.com).

December 11-13, New England Vegetable and Berry Conference. For more information see [www.nevbc.org](http://www.nevbc.org)

December 13-14, 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Southeast Vegetable and Fruit Expo. Myrtle Beach Convention Center, Myrtle Beach S.C.

**December 15, Agricultural Tax Issues Workshop.** Caldwell, Chillicothe, Columbus, Greenville, Ottawa, Urbana, Upper Sandusky and Wooster. More information follows in this issue.

## **2007**

January 7-9, Wisconsin Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Conference, Olympia Resort and Conference Center, Oconomowoc, [www.wisconsinfreshproduce.org](http://www.wisconsinfreshproduce.org)

January 8-9, Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference and Trade Show, Holiday Inn North, Lexington, KY. Contact John Strang 859-257-5685; e-mail [jstrang@uky.edu](mailto:jstrang@uky.edu)

**January 10, Food Cooperative Workshop,** The Ohio State University, Ag. Administration Building. This workshop is for food groups who are already cooperatives and those who are thinking about starting one. Topics to be covered are: legal issues, accounting systems, web sites and food safety. The workshop is free of charge and lunch will be provided. For more information <http://ocdc.osu.edu/pdf/foodcoopbrochure.pdf> or contact Tom Snyder at 740-289-2071 ext. 220 or [snyder.11@osu.edu](mailto:snyder.11@osu.edu).

January 11-13, Illinois Specialty Crop and Agritourism Conference Crown Plaza Hotel, Springfield IL. For more information contact Rick Weinzierl, 217-244-2126

January 15-17, Ohio Fruit and Vegetable Growers Congress, Ohio Direct Agricultural Marketing Conference, Mid American Human Resource Conference and National Bramble Conference, Greater Columbus Convention Center.

January 25-28, Southern Sustainable Agriculture Conference. The Galt House Hotel and Suites, Louisville, Ky. For more information (678) 494-0696.

January 29, Beginning Commercial Apple Production Workshop. Indianapolis. Attendees must register for the Horticultural Congress, but there is no additional fee for the workshop. For more information, contact [Peter Hirst](mailto:Peter.Hirst@hort.purdue.edu), 765-494-1323 or see <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/hort/ext/hortcongress/ihc2007.html>.

January 29-31, Indiana Horticultural Congress and Trade Show, Indianapolis.

January 30-February 1, Mid-Atlantic Fruit & Vegetable Convention. Hershey Lodge & Convention Center, Hershey PA

February 6, Southern Illinois Tree Fruit School, Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon, Illinois. For more information contact Elizabeth Wahle, 618-692-9434.

February 9-12, North American Strawberry Growers Association Strawberry Symposium. Ventura, California. For more information <http://www.nasga.org/>.

February 12-13, Ohio Grape-Wine Short Course, Shisler Conference Center at OARDC

in Wooster, OH.

February 14-15, Empire State Fruit and Vegetable Expo Syracuse, N.Y. For more information <http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/hort/expo/>

February 16-17, North American Farmers' Direct Marketing Conference and Trade Show. Hyatt Regency Hotel, Calgary, Alberta, Canada. For more information [www.nafdma.com](http://www.nafdma.com).

**February 17, Innovative Farmers of Ohio (IFO) Annual Meeting.** 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Kenyon College, Gambier, OH. For more information phone 1-800-372-6092

February 27-28, Illinois Small Fruit and Strawberry Schools Holiday Inn, Mt. Vernon, Illinois. For more information contact Bronwyn Aly, 618-695-2444

**March 3-4, The Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association Conference.** Granville, OH. For more information Phone: 614.421.2022

**March 19, Advanced Topics Blueberry School, OSU South Centers.** Topics include. Food Safety for Blueberries- Carlos Garcia, Marketing Blueberries - Sandy Kuhn, Insecticide Performance - John Wise, and Pesticide Record Keeping. For more information contact Brad Bergefurd at 740-289-2071 Ext136 or by email at [bergefurd.1@osu.edu](mailto:bergefurd.1@osu.edu)

**July 26, Beekeeping Workshop,** OSU South Centers. More information to follow.

## **Comments from the Editor**

Winter meetings are coming up quickly. Please note these on the calendar and if there are any that I have missed that you think should be on here please let me know.

The Ohio Fruit ICM News survey is almost ready. I will send out a separate email when it is active. Please take the opportunity to provide feedback.

## **Agricultural Tax Issues Workshop**

Tax practitioners with an interest in farm income taxes will have an opportunity to attend a one day farm tax workshop offered on December 15<sup>th</sup> according to Dr. Warren Lee, Director, Ohio Income Tax Schools, The Ohio State University. The Agricultural Tax Issues program has been accepted for continuing education credits by the Accountancy Board of Ohio, IRS Director of Practice and the Ohio Supreme Court Commission on Continuing Legal Education.

This workshop will be taught by Dr. Phil Harris, Professor of Agricultural Economics, University of Wisconsin. Participants will hear a lecture on current agricultural tax issues given by Dr. Harris supplemented with a slide presentation. Dr. Harris will be available

for questions during two scheduled conference calls and OSU faculty will also be available to answer questions. Participants will also receive a 300 page book, Agricultural Tax Issues, authored by Dr. Harris as part of their registration.

The workshop will be held on Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at the following locations in Ohio: Caldwell, Chillicothe, Columbus, Greenville, Ottawa, Urbana, Upper Sandusky and Wooster. The Agricultural Tax Issues Workshop is sponsored by the Ohio State University Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics and Ohio State University Extension.

Workshop information, a downloadable registration form as well as on-line registration are available at the following website: <http://aede.osu.edu/programs/TaxSchool>. Or contact Dr. Warren Lee, Ohio Income Tax Schools, at 614-292-6308 for additional information concerning the workshop.

## **2007 Growers Congress Workshops Offer Education and Networking Opportunities**

Fruit and vegetable growers and marketers are invited to participate in the 2007 Ohio Fruit and Vegetable Growers Congress that will also include the Ohio Direct Agricultural Marketing Conference, the Mid American Ag and Hort Human Resource Conference and the National Bramble Conference.

The Congress and related conferences will be held in Columbus, Ohio, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center January 15-17.

The three-day educational event and concurrent two-day trade show will provide an ideal forum for grower and marketer education as well as providing numerous opportunities for association and social interactions. January 15 programming is dedicated to educational sessions while January 16 and 17 programs include numerous educational and trade show opportunities.

2007 Congress and Conference highlights include the following

### **Monday, January 15**

- Workshops dealing with season extension, disease management and organic crop production.
- Core pesticide re-certification credit workshop, dealing with changing Worker Protection Standards and pesticide health effects.
- MAAHS (Mid American Ag and Hort Services) sessions:

“Experienced Supervisors Hiring Workshop”

“What's New with Labor & Immigration Compliance”

“Business Networking & Developing Career Ladders”

“Developing a Safety Recipe (qualifies for Ohio Farm Bureau Federation's Workers Compensation education credit)”

- DAMA (Direct Agricultural Marketing Association) workshops:
  - “Advanced Retail Concepts”
  - “Hosting Team Building Events on Your Farm”
  - “What Flew, What Flopped”
- NABGA's (North American Bramble Growers Association) National Bramble Conference (NBC) will kick off with a Bramble ABC's Workshop.
- Tree fruit sessions (Transitioning Toward Reduced Pesticide Tree Fruit Growing) will convene that evening.

### **Tuesday, January 16:**

- Vegetable, tree fruit and small fruit educational sessions that will be highlighted by Chuck Mohler's (Sweet Corn Charlie) presentation with his adaptation of advanced Israeli technology for U. S. production. A soil health workshop will also be presented.
- National Brambles Conference will feature sessions concerning raspberry varieties, bramble diseases and organic brambles.
- DAMA session topics: new marketing strategies and opportunities, internet use and more.
- Vegetable Crop Protection & Seed Update: presentations by various Trade Show Exhibitors.
- TRADE SHOW opens at 2:00 p.m. and closes at 6:00 p.m. and will feature Opening Reception and complimentary appetizers at 4:30 p.m.
- NABGA dinner and Tree Fruit, Small Fruit and Vegetable roundtable discussions will be convened that evening, followed by a card party.

### **Wednesday, January 17**

- Annual Awards Breakfast at 7:00 a.m. with a joint association meeting of OFGS, OVPGA and DAMA to follow. Individual association annual meetings will follow the joint meeting.
- TRADE SHOW hours: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Taste of Local Foods in the Trade Show at 12 noon.
- Continuation of the NBC as well as vegetable, small fruit, tree fruit and direct marketing sessions.
- Top Vegetable Growers Workshop featuring sweet corn, snap bean, tomato and potato production.
- Safety session after lunch that qualifies for OFBF's Workers Compensation education credit.

There is a significant registration discount available to members of sponsoring associations. New for this year are pre-registration discounts that are only available to sponsoring association members.

More registration information will be available in the November/December issue of Today's Grower. A registration form may also be obtained by visiting [www.ohiofruit.org](http://www.ohiofruit.org) or [www.ohiovegetables.org](http://www.ohiovegetables.org) or by contacting Kathy Lutz at 614-246-8292 or [klutz@ofbf.org](mailto:klutz@ofbf.org).

### **Intensive Bramble Production Workshop** - by Dr. Dick Funt

Bramble ABCs is a three-hour workshop for potential and novice fruit growers and experienced growers who want a refresher. Raspberry and blackberry production management and marketing are the major topics. The workshop will be held during the Ohio Fruit and Vegetable Congress from 1:30 to 4:30 PM on Monday January 15, 2007 in Columbus, Ohio, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. This workshop will be interactive between growers and the presenters: Richard Funt, Professor Emeritus, Ohio State University; Tom Althaus, an Ohio raspberry grower; and Tom Walters, NW Washington Research and Extension Center and NABGA vice-president.

The workshop will ask three questions: Where are you now? Where do you want to be in five years? And how will you get there? It will cover the planning process, financial risk, profits, the supply chain, current industry trends, soil/water management, cultivar selection, pest control, marketing, and other key aspects of a bramble operation.

The Bramble ABCs workshop has limited registration and pre-registration is required. Cost for the workshop is \$50, with a lower charge for a spouse or second farm/family member attending. This workshop is part of the three-day National Bramble Conference sponsored by the North American Bramble Growers Association. (NABGA). Additional bramble sessions and NABGA annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 16 and Wednesday, January 17.

For more information, contact NABGA at [nabga@mindspring.com](mailto:nabga@mindspring.com) or 919-542-3687 or visit [www.raspberryblackberry.com](http://www.raspberryblackberry.com). Information on the full Ohio Fruit and Vegetable Congress and registration forms are available at [www.ohiofruit.org](http://www.ohiofruit.org) or by calling (614) 246-8235.

### **USDA Posts Fall 2006 Farm Labor Survey** by John Wargowsky, Exec. Director MAAHS

On November 17, 2006, The United States Department of Agriculture released the Fourth Quarter Farm Labor Survey that includes the wage rates the U.S. Department of Labor uses to determine the Adverse Effect Wage Rate in the H-2A Temporary Agricultural Worker Program.

Next winter or spring, the U.S. Department of Labor will publish the new Adverse Effect Wage Rate in the Federal Register and it will become effective at that time. They will use the 2006 Annual Average Wage Rates for Field and Livestock Workers.

These wage rates may be found on page 15 in the right hand column of the survey report. For the MAAHS service area, the Adverse Affect Wage Rate will be \$9.88/hour in Indiana and Ohio and \$8.65/hour in Kentucky. Many agricultural employers use this report to assist them in planning for the next year.

### [Fall 2006 USDA Farm Labor Survey](#)

If you are considering using the H-2A program for 2007, Mid American Ag and Hort Services can help you through its contract provider, [MAS Labor](#). John Wargowsky, Executive Director of MAAHS is also willing to help agricultural employers understand the basics of the H-2A program. Contact John at 614-246-8286 to discuss

### **Do-It-Yourself Speed Cooler Helps Extend Shelf Life of Harvested Fruit** by Cathy Heidenreich, Cornell University (Source Massachusetts Berry Notes Volume 18, #16)

Speed cooling of small fruits can dramatically extend their shelf life. A general rule of thumb is that for every hour of delay in cooling after harvest, shelf life is reduced by one day. This delay can have a significant economic impact on a grower's ability to market fruit in retail and wholesale outlets. Large commercial berry operations routinely use large pre-coolers to speed cool warm fruit coming from the field.

Typical New York berry growers, however, operate on a slightly smaller scale. While most growers often have coolers for post harvest fruit storage, not many have speed cooling technology available to them. Fortunately, William Wilcke, Extension Agricultural Engineer, and Herbert Stiles, Extension Horticulturalist, both from Virginia State University have designed a do-it-yourself forced-air produce cooler which can help get the job done - fast!

Their simple device, assembled from materials available from your local home improvement or hardware store, can be readily constructed using common household tools. It is intended to be used in your existing produce cooler to speed cool non-wrapped small fruit and/or produce packed in vented cartons. The cooler is custom-built to the dimensions of your filled produce cartons and is designed to cool one to three columns of cartons (approx. 15 cartons per column, depending on carton depth) at a time.

A print-friendly PDF version of the plans for this do-it-your-selfer is available free of charge from the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service at:

<http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/fruit/442-060/442-060.pdf>.

(Or contact them directly and ask for their Small Fruits Publication #442-060, The Forced-Air Produce Cooler, by William Wilcke and Herbert Stiles)

Once you have finished your custom-built forced air cooler, place it in a room maintained at proper temperature and relative humidity for the type of produce you need to speed cool (32°F and 90% relative humidity is recommended for small fruits). Load the fruit into the cooler following the instructions provided. Operate the unit until the produce is within a few degrees of the cold room temperature. This may take 2-6 hours depending on the fan size of your unit and the initial temperature differences between the cold room and the harvested fruit. (Caution- Do not operate more than 6 hours as this may dry out the fruit.) Once the fruit is speed cooled, move it out of your speed cooler into the main cold room area and re-load the unit with another batch of warm produce. If you need to add more warm fruit to the unit while it is already in operation, slide the partially cooled columns to the rear and set the warmer fruit closest to the forced air cooler to avoid reheating partially cooled fruit. (Source: New York Berry News, Vol. 5, No. 10)

**Winter Mulch for Strawberries** by Sonia Schloemann, UMass Extension (Source Massachusetts Berry Notes Vol. 18, No. 16)

An important fall job in commercial strawberry production is mulching. Strawberries are commonly grown in cold climates, such as the northern US and Canada, but the strawberry plant itself is actually quite vulnerable to cold injury. Research has shown that, without mulch, strawberry crowns can suffer damage at temperatures below 12°F and unprotected strawberry plants can suffer desiccation damage from drying winter winds. A protective mulch can protect strawberries from cold by providing insulation, and from desiccation by providing a barrier against drying winds. Mulches will also protect plants from injury caused by soil heaving, which results from freezing/ thawing cycles during the winter. So, a key to consistent quality strawberry production in cold climates is in protecting the plants from severe temperatures or temperature swings through the practice of mulching.

Production systems can also affect the need for mulching. Plants on raised beds, for example, are more vulnerable to cold and desiccation injury than plants in level plantings, especially in locations that are exposed to strong winter winds. Annual production systems, such as fall planted plasticulture, may utilize less hardy or disease susceptible cultivars. As we will see, mulching practices must adapt to these new systems.

When should the strawberry grower plan to apply mulch? Research suggests that a good timing guide is to apply mulch after three consecutive days with a soil temperature of 40°F or below. This soil temperature usually occurs after multiple frosts, and when the plants have slowed growth in response to cooler temperatures. It is best to apply mulch before the soil freezes solid. In New England mulches are applied in late November.

What is a good mulch material? The traditional mulching material for strawberries in New England is straw. Straws from wheat, rice, oats, or Sudan grass work well. Straws coarser than Sudan grass are not recommended. Straw should be clean, free from weed



seed, and contains a minimum of grain seed. Strawberry growers can produce their own straw, often cutting the straw before the grain seed is viable. Store straw for mulching in a dry area. Occasionally, grain seedlings can become a weed problem the following spring; an application of sethoxydim will give good control.

How much mulch should be applied? A traditional, level matted row planting will require 2.5 to 3 tons of straw per acre for a 2 to 3 inch deep mulch, or about 300 small bales of average weight. Raised bed plantings and sites with strong wind may require twice this amount for adequate coverage.

How is the mulch applied? Smaller plantings may be mulched by hand by shaking out the bales of straw over the row. Larger plantings often use bale choppers to break up the straw bales and distribute the straw over the bed. Choppers are available for both small bales and large round bales.

How and when is the mulch removed? In the spring, when plants begin to show growth under the winter mulch (new green tissue), the mulch should be raked off the rows to allow sunlight to penetrate and reach the foliage. Delaying removal will delay plant growth and flowering and may reduce yield. Mulch can be raked off by hand with ordinary yard rakes in smaller plantings. In larger plantings, various mechanical tools are available ranging from modified hay rakes and tedders to equipment specifically designed for the purpose.

Floating row covers as mulch. These covers are composed of a plastic such as polypropylene, spun-bonded into a fabric that is permeable to light, air, and water. Research and growers' experiences demonstrate that these covers are useful for winter protection of strawberry plantings. While floating row covers are available in several weights, only the heavier weights are recommended for winter protection. At present a widely available weight recommended for winter strawberry protection is 1.25 oz/yd<sup>2</sup> (42 g/m<sup>2</sup>). A variety of fabric widths are available, with common widths ranging from 15 feet to 60 feet. This material currently costs about 4 cents per square foot. With proper care, this heavier fabric should last 3-4 seasons. Floating row covers are widely used to protect annual plasticulture plantings. Row covers are best applied on still days. Be sure to line up sufficient labor to place the row cover. If possible, use wider widths for more efficient application. The row cover edges must be anchored, as must areas where two covers overlap. A variety of methods are used to anchor the edges. Edges may be anchored with posts, rocks, or tube sand. The edges may also be covered with soil.

Once the mulch is in place, the job is not done for the winter. Monitor the planting frequently. If straw has blown off areas, replace at once. Watch the edges of row covers, and adjust anchors if needed. Repair any rips or holes as soon as possible. Any reference to equipment or product brand names does not constitute endorsement over like products or equipment.

**2006 Kentucky Fruit Crop Summary** by John Strang, Kaan Kurtural, Joe Masabni, Terry Jones, U.K. Extension Horticulturists; John Hartman, U.K. Extension Plant Pathologist; and Ric Bessin, U.K. Entomologist

The 2006 growing season in Kentucky provided mostly warmer than normal temperatures and below normal rainfall, however these observations varied by location. Average temperatures were warmer than normal statewide in January (+12°F) and April (+4). In eastern Kentucky, temperatures were also well above normal for the entire season whereas in central and western Kentucky, temperatures remained pretty much near normal. The coldest temperatures occurred on February 19, dropping to 5°F following temperatures in the 60's and 70's in January. Temperatures dropped to 28°F on April 9, well after fruit crops had broken dormancy and may have caused some injury. Rainfall in central and western Kentucky was near normal during most months, but was well below normal in eastern Kentucky with some areas reporting a shortfall of 10 inches of rain during the growing season. With wetness affecting disease development, the percentage of days with rain in central and western Kentucky averaged over 40-50% during April and May. September was one of the wettest and coolest on record. Thus, there were ample opportunities for rain-based plant disease development. Most growers reported very good crops. Early in the season harvest dates were slightly later than normal, but normal later in the season. Japanese beetle populations were up this year and they were a severe problem in western Kentucky.

Apples - Kentucky growers produced an apple crop that averaged 100% of normal. Fruit color was outstanding for fall varieties, size was excellent, however consistent rain reduced flavor. Cork spot and bitter pit incidence was about normal. Apple sales were generally good. High levels of apple scab, cedar apple rust, and frog-eye leaf spot were observed. With warm spring temperatures, fire blight was observed frequently, and in some orchards, was pretty severe. Sooty blotch and flyspeck appeared as the season progressed. Powdery mildew was also seen. Oriental fruit moth remains a serious problem in some central Kentucky orchards, particularly where Imidan and Guthion are relied upon for codling moth control.

Pears - The European pear and Asian pear crops were 100% of normal. Pears were observed with fire blight and leaf spot. Stink bugs continue to be a problem in Asian pears.

Stone Fruit - The peach crop was 100% of normal. Size, color and the market were excellent. Peach leaf curl, brown rot, and scab were common. Plum black knot was widespread, probably the result of favorable conditions for infection the year before.

Pawpaws - Pawpaws produced a bumper crop and fruit size was good.

Persimmons - "Kaki sudden death" a disease of unknown etiology was killing oriental persimmons grafted to native persimmon rootstock.

Strawberries - The strawberry crop was about 80% of normal. Rain during harvest reduced yields and fruit quality. Mycosphaerella leaf spot was frequently observed. Bacterial angular leaf spot was also found.

Brambles - Raspberries, thorny and Thornless blackberries all had full crops. A number of growers has significant amounts of sunburned fruit. Blackberry rosette appeared in most regions of the state. Raspberry and blackberry sterility were seen and are possibly related to virus infections. Raspberry crown borer was a problem in some blackberry plantings.

Grapes - The grape crop was 70% of that expected for many growers. New acreage continues to be planted. There are 532 acres of vineyards planted in the state with 113 growers, which is up from 282 acres and 72 growers in 2002. Most new plantings are made up of French-American and Norton grapes. Most notably, 'Chambourcin,' 'Traminette,' and 'Vignoles' acreage is expected to increase in the next two years. The overcast and rainy weather coupled with poor mineral nutrition reduced berry set. The precipitation received in the second half of July and throughout the month of August adversely affected fruit composition values across the state. Phomopsis infections in clusters were a problem as in the previous year. Black rot and anthracnose were widespread, especially in vineyards managed by inexperienced growers. Pestalotia stem canker and Isariopsis leaf spot were also observed. Foliage and cluster powdery mildew infections prevented the majority of vinifera vineyards from ripening a crop. Japanese beetle feeding continues to be a problem. Grape root borer populations in vineyards above four years of age are on the increase. The foliar phase of phylloxera was serious and required control on some cultivars in some vineyards. Deer, birds, raccoons, and wild turkeys were a serious problem. Netting of vineyards to mitigate bird damage was necessary for many smaller vineyards. In northern Kentucky 40% of the crop was lost to birds.

Blueberries - Blueberries produced a full crop this season. Bird problems were severe. Phytophthora and Pythium root rots were diagnosed on blueberries.

NOTE: Disclaimer - This publication may contain pesticide recommendations that are subject to change at any time. These recommendations are provided only as a guide. It is always the pesticide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. Due to constantly changing labels and product registrations, some of the recommendations given in this writing may no longer be legal by the time you read them. If any information in these recommendations disagrees with the label, the recommendation must be disregarded. No endorsement is intended for products mentioned, nor is criticism meant for products not mentioned. The author and Ohio State University Extension assume no liability resulting from the use of these recommendations.

## **Ohio Poison Control Number**

(800) 222-1222  
TDD # is (614) 228-2272