

Ohio Fruit News

Volume 17, Issue 2

May 24, 2013

The Ohio State University

Greetings from Gary

Dear Ohio Fruit Growers:

Mother nature definitely has a way of keeping us honest! I thought we needed to get ready for summer soon, until a spring freeze on May 13th reminded me that we were still in the middle of an Ohio spring! Temperatures in northwestern Ohio dipped as low as 29F. Frost damage was quite spotty in northern Ohio. Southern Ohio seems to have escaped this time.

I visited quite a few grape growers on May 14 and 15 in southwest Ohio with my good buddy Dave Scurlock. No frost injuries were observed there. That

was good news. But, the bad news was that herbicide drift damage to grapevines was very evident. Dicamba and glyphosate damage was quite common. Quite a few grapevines were stunted pretty badly. I certainly hope these vines will grow out of this.

Many blueberry varieties are in petal fall and some in green fruit stage. Blackberries were in full bloom at Piketon Ohio. Both black and red raspberry flowers are in full bloom or in petal fall stage in central Ohio.

Plasticulture strawberry growers in southern Ohio are harvesting right now.

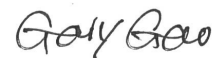


Dr. Gary Gao, Editor

Berries look quite good so far.

If you have questions or comments, please let me know.

sincerely,



Dr. Gary Gao
Extension Specialist
and Associate Professor

Inside this issue:

Greetings from Gary	1
Blueberry Growing in Ohio	2
Blackberry Production Systems in Ohio	3,4
Frost Damage to Grapes	5
Plant & Pest Diagnostic Clinic	5
OSU Specialists & Workshops	6,7
Tree Fruit Pathology Videos, Newsletter Website, and Other Websites	8



EXTENSION
OARDC

Blueberry Growing in Ohio

By Gary Gao

“Which blueberry cultivars do you recommend?”

I have received many questions about blueberry production. One common question cultivar selection. Since blueberries are quite challenging to grow in Ohio, my suggested cultivars (instead of recommended) are Duke, Draper, Bluecrop, Bluejay, Blueray, and Elliot.



“Duke” blueberry cultivars in full bloom. Photo by Gary Gao.

There are many other blueberry cultivars available. It is hard to know how they will perform in Ohio without replicated trials. These trials can take 10 to 15 years and a few dollars. We have to settle for smaller scale observation plots. Some of blueberry cultivars under observation are Aurora, Bluegold, Blue Haven, Huron, Nelson, Patriot and Pink Lemonade.

Growers are also encouraged to plant a few new cultivars on your own to see how they perform and their customers like them.

“How many cultivars should I plant?”

I would plant 4-10 to cover the entire ripening season. Mid-season cultivars, such as Blueray, Bluecrop, and Draper should make up about 75% of a blueberry planting. Early and late cultivars should make up the rest. Multiple cultivars will also facilitate cross pollination, which in turn boosts yields.

Two Upcoming Blueberry Program:

1. Northern Ohio Blueberry School at The Blueberry Patch—June 13, 2013.

More Info. <http://southcenters.osu.edu/horticulture/educational-opportunities/>

2. OPGMA Summer Field Day—June 26, 2013

More info:

<http://www.opgma.org/?q=tour>

I would like to thank Ohio Department of Agriculture and US Department of Agriculture for their financial support of our blueberry research and grower outreach programs through a specialty crop block grant.

Blackberry Production Systems in Ohio

By Gary Gao

Blackberries are certainly gaining popularity in Ohio. There are several common production systems. They are open field, rotatable cross arm trellis, and high tunnel.

Open field production System:

Open field production System is the most common production system for blackberries in Ohio since the costs for establishing a planting are not terribly expensive. Fruit quality is pretty good. However, one main challenge is the lack of winter hardiness in many leading blackberry cultivars. 'Chester' is a winter hardy cultivar and is widely planted in Ohio. Its flavor is a little sub par. 'Triple Crown' produces much better tasting berries. However, its winter hardiness is questionable. These two blackberry cultivars are typically grown using open field system with varying degrees of success.



Ouachita and Natchez are two new cultivars from the University of Arkansas. They are very productive and have excellent taste. However, they are not consistently winter hardy in Ohio. Hence, these two cultivars are better suited for other production systems where they are protected during the winter months.



Rotatable Cross Arm (RCA) Trellis:

Rotatable Cross Arm Trellis is a relatively new production system for blackberries. The system was developed by Dr. Fumi Takeda, a Research Horticulturist with USDA. This system was commercialized by Trellis Growing Systems. The RCA system allows growers in colder climate to grow many more cultivars that they could not have grown. Projected yields and revenues are quite high with this system. Several growers in Ohio have adopted this system. It is still early to know the full potential of this system since our growers are still quite new to this system. We planted a short row of blackberry plants using RCA trellis in 2012.

Blackberry Production Systems By Dr. Gary Gao...continued

RCA system is in the foreground while a high tunnel is in the background.



Photo by Gary Gao, OSU South Centers

RCA Trellis System at Rhoads Farms in Circleville on April 19, 2012.
Photo by Gary Gao, OSU South Centers



This RCA system will be featured at the Rhoads Farm Inc. in Circleville during the 2013 OPGMA Summer Tour. This will be a great time to see what RCA system is all about.

Many thanks to ODA and USDA for their support of this project through a specialty crop block grant!

High Tunnel Production of Blackberries:

High tunnel production is another potential way to grow blackberries. We planted Natchez and Ouachita in a high tunnel in 2012. Since Natchez and Ouachita are both floricanes blooming cultivars, 2013 will be the first year of fruit production. We definitely noticed early blooming of blackberry plants in the high tunnel versus those plants in open field. Early flowering should translate into early ripening. It will be exciting to see what the yield will be this year!

As you can tell, we have limited experience with high tunnel blackberry production. Growers might want to wait a little until we have more data available or they only try this on a small scale.



High tunnel at OSU South Centers in Piketon. Photo by Gary Gao.

High tunnel production does take expertise and time commitment to make it work. It is important to know what you are getting into before planting a lot of blackberry plants in a high tunnel. It is also a good idea to visit other high tunnel growers to "compare notes."

Frost Damage to Grapes by Gary Gao and Dave Scurlock

Air temperatures dipped to 30.5F at 6:30 am on May 13th at OARDC in Wooster, Ohio. This temperature reading was recorded at the weather station there. At one of the research vineyards, air temperatures went down to 29F. A few of the newly expanded leaves were damaged. Some of the flowers were damaged too. It is too early to tell if the freezing event will have serious impact on grape yield this year.



Photo by Dave Scurlock, OSU Dept. of Horticulture and Crop Science.

If you are a grape grower, you definitely should subscribe to Ohio Grape Electronic News (OGEN). Send an email to Dave Scurlock at Scurlock.2@osu.edu Dave is the viticulture outreach specialist with Department of Horticulture and Crop Science at The Ohio State University. Both Dave and I would like to acknowledge the financial support of Ohio Grape Industries Program for our research and research programs. Here is an excerpt on Apple Thinning from the Southwest Michigan Fruit

Apple Thinning Bill Shane, Mark Longstroth and Diane Brown Extension Educators, Michigan State University

Report from MSU – May 20, 2013.

"Apples are generally past petal fall. Apple fruit are 6 to 8 mm in diameter. Light to significant damage in the low sites or in the low areas in orchards has been reported across the region but the overall crop potential looks good. Recent hot and cloudy weather have stressed developing fruit so that natural fruit thinning is expected to be heavy. This drop should be apparent by the end of the week. Many growers will still need to apply thinners soon. See Apple thinning pointers for 2013. The next thinning window will be towards the end of the week when temperatures begin to warm again."

Useful Link: Apple Pointers for 2013
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/apple_thinning_pointers_for_2013

Bill, Mark and Diane with MSU do an excellent job in keeping fruit growers informed with their timely and precise updates. Please make adjustments based on your own situation.

OSU Fruit Specialists

Name and Title	Contact Information	Expertise
Brad Bergefurd Horticulture Specialist OSU South Centers 1864 Shyville Rd. Piketon, OH 45661	Phone: 740-289-2071, ext. 136 Email: bergefurd.1@osu.edu Website: http://southcenters.osu.edu/hort	Small fruit crops and wholesale produce auction development and operations.
Dr. Imed Dami, Associate Professor & Viticulture State Specialist Dept. of Hort. & Crop Science 216 Gourley Hall—OARDC 1680 Madison Avenue Wooster, OH 44691	Phone: 330-263-3881 Email: dami.1@osu.edu Website: oardc.osu.edu/grapeweb/	Viticulture research and statewide Extension & outreach programs. Recommendation on variety selection. Imed is the primary research contact of the viticulture program.
Dr. Doug Doohan, Professor Dept. of Hort. & Crop Science 205 Gourley Hall – OARDC 1680 Madison Avenue Wooster, OH 44691	Phone: 330-202-3593 Email: doohan.1@osu.edu Website: http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/weedworkshop/	Weed control in fruit crops.
Dr. Mike Ellis, Professor Dept. of Plant Pathology 224 Selby Hall—OARDC 1680 Madison Avenue Wooster, OH 44691	Phone: 330-263-3849 Email: ellis.7@osu.edu Website: http://plantpath.osu.edu/	Tree fruit and small fruit disease control.
Dr. Gary Gao, Small Fruit Specialist & Associate Professor OSU South Centers 1864 Shyville Rd. Piketon, OH 45661	Phone: 740-289-2071. ext. 123 Email: gao.2@osu.edu Website: http://southcenters.osu.edu/hort	Management of blackberries, raspberries, blueberries, currants, gooseberries, grapes, and strawberries.
David Marrison, County Director, Associate Professor & Extension Educator for Agriculture & Natural Resources OSU Extension – Ashtabula and Trumbull Counties, 39 Wall Street, Jefferson, OH 44047	Phone: 440-576-9008 Email: marrison.2@osu.edu Website: http://ashtabula.osu.edu/	Grape production in northeast Ohio.
Dr. Diane Miller, Associate Professor, Tree Fruit Specialist Dept. of Hort. & Crop Science 203A Williams Hall 1680 Madison Ave. Wooster, OH 44691	Phone: 330-263-3824 Email: miller.87@osu.edu	Tree fruit research and Extension.

OSU Fruit Specialists

Name and Title	Contact Information	Expertise
David Scurlock Viticulture Outreach Specialist 118 Gourley Hall – OARDC 1680 Madison Avenue Wooster, OH 44691	Phone: 330-263-3825 Email: scurlock.2@osu.edu Website: oardc.osu.edu/grapeweb/	Evaluation of site suitability for vineyard establishment and all aspects of grape production practices in northern Ohio. David is the primary Extension contact of the viticulture program.
Dr. Celeste Welty, Associate Professor & Extension Entomologist Extension Entomology Rothenbuhler Labs 2501 Carmack Rd. Columbus, Ohio 43210	Phone: 614-292-2803 Email: welty.1@osu.edu http://bugs.osu.edu/welty/index.html	Tree fruit insect and mite control.

Northern Ohio Blueberry School

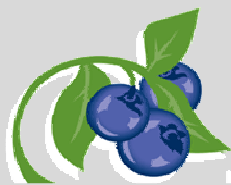
June 13, 2013

5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Registration Fee: There is no cost to attend, however we recommend that you pre-register by 6/12/2013.

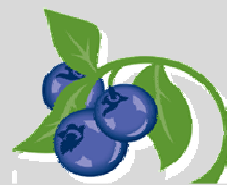
To register contact, Charissa McGlothlin 740.289.2071

Ext. 132 or mcglothlin.4@osu.edu



Program Flyer:

<http://go.osu.edu/blueberryschool>



Program Location:

<http://www.theblueberrypatch.org/>

Tree Fruit Disease Pathology Videos

by George W. Sundin, Professor and Extension Specialist
Department of Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences Michigan State University

Extension videos on tree fruit disease pathology topics on Youtube under the channel treefruitpathology:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/treefruitpathology>

Topics covered include apple scab, fire blight, cherry diseases, and fungicides. There are 18 videos on the site right now, and we just posted 5 more this past week on scab fungicides.

Subscribe to Ohio Fruit News:

Please email
Charissa McGlothlin at
mcglothlin.4@osu.edu

**Ohio Fruit News is
archived at
[http://go.osu.edu/
ICMNews](http://go.osu.edu/ICMNews)**

If you have articles or events for possible inclusion in upcoming issues of this newsletter, please submit them to:
Dr. Gary Gao
gao.2@osu.edu



EXTENSION
OARDC

**Ohio Fruit News
Dr. Gary Gao, Editor
Small Fruit Specialist & Associate Professor
OSU South Centers**

**1864 Shyville Road, Piketon, OH 45661
<http://southcenters.osu.edu/hort>
740-289-2071, ext. 123
gao.2@osu.edu**

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.

**Central Ohio Poison
Control Number
(800) 222-1222
TTY# 614-228-2272**

Ohio State University Extension embraces human diversity and is committed to ensuring that all research and related educational programs are available to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, or veteran status. This statement is in accordance with United States Civil Rights Laws and the USDA.

Keith L. Smith, Ph.D., Associate Vice President for Agricultural Administration and Director, Ohio State University Extension

TDD No. 800-589-8292 (Ohio only) or
614-292-1868