

OSU Blueberry School - Draft Agenda

Monday, March 16 - The LaSells Stewart Center

7:30-8:30am Registration

	Title	Presenter	Details
8:30-8:45	Introduction	Bernadine Strik (OSU)	welcome; introduce committee members
8:45 - 9:15	Characteristics of production regions in the Pacific Northwest	Lisa DeVetter (WSU) & Bernadine Strik	What are the climate (avg. low, high, rainfall), soils, cultivars grown, ripening season, primary markets, primary advantages and challenges to the production regions here (Eastern WA, Lynden area, Western WA, WV Oregon, Columbia region/Hermiston, Southern OR)
9:15 - 10:15	Markets - what's the future for fresh, processed, and organic markets? Things you MUST think about before starting or expanding production	Rod Cook (Ag-View Consulting); Derek Peacock (Hurst's Berry International); Jeff Malensky (Oregon Berry Packing); David Granatstein (WSU)	Strength of existing markets; local markets; processed vs. fresh; market for machine-harvested processed and machine-harvest fresh (?); big vs. little fruit; organic markets vs. conventional; growth potential here in PNW and impacts from elsewhere
10:15 - 10:45	Refreshment break		
10:45 - 11:45	Cultivar choices- Tried and true to brand new	Chad Finn (USDA-ARS)	An overview of available cultivars- from standards to niche market cultivars to promising new releases. There will be an overview of their known or expected performance, their ripening season, how they are best harvested, what markets they are suited for and, where known, how they fit into organic production
11:45 - 12:00	Economics of production - resources	Bernadine Strik (OSU) and David Granatstein (WSU)	A highlight of economic or cost of production information available for conventional and organic production in Oregon and Washington. Speakers will briefly present where to find resources and provide some thoughts on key factors that can affect costs (e.g. pruning) and returns (e.g. yield) among varieties.
12:00 - 1:15	Lunch		
1:15 - 1:30	Resources available for selecting a good blueberry site	Wei Qiang Yang (OSU)	A summary of information provided in the proceedings booklet on resources and things to consider: Online resources & other information available to growers to help with selecting a site: distance to market; agricultural weather sites; soil surveys; water availability & quality information.
1:30 - 2:15	Site preparation	Wei Yang & Bernadine Strik	Site and soil assessment; pH adjustment; drain tile (when needed); amendments; raised beds; spacing & headlands; trellising; mulch (yes? Options?) -- highlights of conventional and organic options

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2:15 - 3:00	Organic soil amendments and mulches for blueberry: the good, the bad and the ugly	Dan Sullivan (OSU)	This session will highlight the risks and benefits of different sources of organic matter for amending soil or for mulching blueberry. Topics will include 1) using chemical and physical analyses of organic matter amendments to make a decision about their suitability, and 2) how data from OSU field and greenhouse trials supports these recommendations
3:00 - 3:30	Afternoon refreshment break		
3:30 - 4:00	On-farm irrigation system design and operation	Dave Bryla (USDA-ARS)	Irrigation water requirements (amount & quality); system options (sprinklers, drip, misters) and configurations; special needs (frost protection, cooling, fertigation, chemigation, acidification)
4:00 - 4:45	Blueberry plant physiology - why it's important to understand the plant to manage it well	Bernadine Strik	morphology of roots, shoots, fruit; how the plant grows; photosynthesis; transpiration; source-sink relationships; flower bud initiation and development; fruit set and seed set. The impact of cultivar and climate and foreshadowing of management effects
4:45 - 5:15	Irrigation scheduling: when, where, and how much?	Dave Bryla	Estimating crop water requirements for irrigation scheduling in blueberry; adjusting water applications for irrigation system efficiency; timing and frequency of water applications
5:30 - 6:30	Reception/social hour		The LaSells Stewart Center
6:45 - 9:00	Dinner		CH2M HILL Alumni Center

Tuesday March 17 - The LaSells Stewart Center

	Title	Presenter	Details
8:00 - 8:45	Pruning - impact of plant age, cultivar, and harvest method	Bernadine Strik	How to estimate yield on young plants and prune accordingly; balanced pruning; pruning for different markets/harvest methods (e.g. hand vs. machine); cultivar differences
8:45 - 9:30	Harvesting - hand vs. machine	Bernadine Strik (moderator); Paul Norris (Norris Farms); Frank Brown (Littau Harvesters (Inc.)); Doug Krahmer (Berries Northwest)	labor needs for hand harvest; labor needs for machine; pros and cons of machine harvesting; tricks for best quality when machine harvesting for processed or fresh markets

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9:30 - 10:30	Nutrient management	Bernadine Strik & Dave Bryla	Strik: The basics of assessing soil and plant nutrient status; recommended starting points for fertilization; leaf tissue standards and impact of cultivar; plant nutrient needs - avoiding a soil pH drop to below recommended levels; foliar applications. Bryla: application methods in conventional and organic; fertigation vs granular application
10:30 - 11:00	Refreshment break		
11:00 - 11:30	Maximizing pollination	Ramesh Sagili (OSU)	Factors that affect honey bee performance; recommendations on hives/acre; how to evaluate bee performance in the field; methods to improve bee activity and pollination (fruit and seed set); further resources
11:30 - 12:00	Blueberry viruses present in the PNW and suggestions for management	Bob Martin (USDA-ARS)	A review of the viruses that have been reported in the PNW and highlight which are of major concern. The vectors for each of the viruses will be highlighted, since once the plants are in the ground, management is based on vector control. Virus management strategies will be presented that cover blueberry growing from site selection and preparation to having fields in full production. A short description of viruses not present in the PNW will also be presented to highlight efforts that should be taken to protect the industry in the PNW from these viruses. The most effective management for viruses not here is to keep them out of our production region.
12:00 - 1:15	lunch		
1:15 - 2:15	Blueberry disease management in the Pacific Northwest	Jay Pscheidt & Jerry Weiland	Discussion of common above and below ground bacterial, fungal and fungal-like diseases of blueberry. The important aspects of disease cycles and how this biology relates to disease management will be discussed. Cultural, chemical and biological tactics (conventional or organic) will also be covered. Additional resources for more information will also be highlighted.
2:15 - 3:00	Weed management for blueberry fields in the Pacific Northwest	Tim Miller (WSU)	An overview of problem weeds in establishing and mature fields west and east of the Cascades. Management options will be provided as well as resources for optimizing weed management programs
3:00 - 3:30	Afternoon refreshment break		

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3:30 - 4:00	Getting hit high and low: Options for managing bird and vole damage	Dana Sanchez (OSU)	A discussion of tactics to manage wildlife damage in blueberry acreage, especially that related to birds and voles. Understanding the ecology of these species will help us choose approaches that are appropriate and most likely to prove helpful
4:00 - 5:00	Insect pest management	Vaughn Walton and Nik Wiman (OSU) and Inga Zasada (USDA-ARS)	Presentation of minor and major insects, emerging new pests, and nematodes found in blueberry production; presentations will focus on resources for control; varietal differences, alternate hosts, important aspects of life cycles that affect control, and best conventional and organic methods of management
5:00 - 5:15	Wrap up and evaluation & pesticide credits		