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SHORTS:

The [Commonwealth Quality Program](#) continues to expand and evolve. Currently, we have 65 certified participants enrolled, including 46 growers, 10 forest product manufacturers, and nine lobster fishermen. The addition of five more businesses in December will bring our 2011 Commonwealth Quality participant numbers to 70.

Over the coming winter months, many exiting program-related activities will take place. Some program standards will be re-authored, making them more comprehensible for both program participants and consumers. What's more, two more agricultural sectors are scheduled to join the program in early 2012.

Continuing our education and outreach efforts, Commonwealth Quality will have a presence at the following industry conferences and trade shows:

- Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting, Fitchburg, MA, December 1 – 2
- New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference, Manchester, NH, December 13 – 15
- New England Home Show, Boston, MA, February 23 – 26
- Worcester Spring Home Show, Worcester, MA, March 9 - 11

And finally, a new CQP website is in the works. The upgraded site will feature new design and layout as well as enhanced sector areas.

Nursery Guide for Berry and Small Fruit Crops – This issue of Berry Notes contains information on variety selections for berry crops. In order to find nursery sources for desired varieties, Cornell has developed a comprehensive website to help. This two-part nursery guide for berry growers cross references scores of cultivars with the nurseries that sell them. Find it at <http://www.fruit.cornell.edu/berry/nurseries/index.html>.



STRAWBERRY

New 'Herriot' Strawberry – Tough Plant, Tasty Fruit

Cornell News Service, Cornell University

With high yields, good disease resistance, eye-appeal and a mild flavor with pineapple overtones, 'Herriot' is a sweet option for growers.

"'Herriot' is one tough plant," says Courtney Weber, the berry breeder in the Department of Horticulture at Cornell University who developed the variety. "Many of our trials are in the worst possible soil conditions, and 'Herriot' is always one of the last varieties standing. And it tastes good too!"



The new variety's features include:

High yields. In trials and with commercial growers in New York, Massachusetts, Illinois, Minnesota and Ontario, 'Herriot' yielded as much as 60 percent more than 'Jewel', the predominant mid-season variety for

perennial matted-row production that was also developed by Cornell. In trials at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, N.Y., 'Herriot' harvest consistently begins two days before 'Jewel' with yields greater than or equal to that variety most years.

Beautiful berries. 'Herriot' produces large (up to 25 grams, averaging about 11 grams), heart-shaped, shiny red berries with a bright green calyx. "'Herriot' really draws the eye because of the nice shine on the fresh berries," says Weber. "That makes them very attractive to farm-stand and pick-your-own customers." Fruit is generally larger and more uniform than 'Jewel'. Flavor is sweet and mild with light pineapple overtones.

Disease resistance. 'Herriot' shows good resistance to common leaf diseases, and holds up well to summer renovation, allowing for wider adaptation to variable soils. In Geneva, 'Herriot' blooms in mid-May, avoiding most damaging frosts.

The variety is named for the British author, James Herriot, one of Weber's favorites.

Weber's small fruits breeding program at Cornell is focused on developing improved strawberry and raspberry varieties for New York growers. Previous releases from Weber's program – including 'L'Amour' and 'Clancy' strawberries and 'Prelude', 'Encore', and 'Crimson Giant' raspberries – have shown wide adaptation throughout New England, the Mid-Atlantic States and the Midwest, as well as temperate regions of Europe.

Growers interested in trying 'Herriot' in 2012 can purchase plants from the licensed nurseries Krohne Plant Farms (www.krohneplantfarms.com, 269-424-5423) and Daisy Farms (www.daisyfarms.net, 269-782-6321).

(*Source: New York Berry News, Vol. 10, No. 10, December 2011*)

Strawberry Variety Review

David T. Handley, University of Maine Cooperative Extension

Early Season

Earliglow: An early berry of high quality. Fruit is firm with excellent flavor and color. Yields may be low in the Northeast. Fruit size tends to decrease as season progresses. Plants are vigorous runner producers and are resistant to red stele and Verticillium wilt.

Sable: From Nova Scotia. Medium to large fruit. Flavor is very good, but fruit are soft. Yield potential is high and picking period is long, but fruit size may decline sharply after the first harvests. Plants are vigorous, with some resistance to red stele.

Northeaster: Large, firm fruit with dark color strong flavor. Good yields for an early variety. Shy runner producer, but plants are vigorous and perform well on heavy soils. Resistant to red stele and Verticillium.

Evangeline: From Nova Scotia. A very early berry with a long conic shape and good flavor, but yield may be low in northern New England. Early flowering, so quite susceptible to frost injury. Plants are vigorous, but have no resistance to red stele or Verticillium wilt.

Wendy: From Nova Scotia. An early berry with good color, firmness and flavor. Yields have been very good. Not as early flowering as some other early varieties. Plants are vigorous and may have some tolerance to red stele. Some growers have reported problems with leaf spot.

Early-Midseason

Honeoye: From New York. Generally early ripening. High yielding. Large, very attractive fruit with firm flesh, but flavor may be tart or flat. Plants are vigorous and produce many runners. Very susceptible to red stele and no known resistance to Verticillium.

Annapolis: From Nova Scotia. Large fruit with good flavor and color, but somewhat soft. Very vigorous, free-running plants. Some winter injury reported. Some resistance to red stele.

Mira: From Nova Scotia. Large, firm, light red fruit with good quality. Plants have high yield potential and are vigorous with some resistance to red stele root rot and leaf diseases.

Brunswick: From Nova Scotia. Medium to large blocky fruit, attractive, dark red. Somewhat tender, and may be tart if not picked fully ripe. Very high yielding. Plants are vigorous with some resistance to red stele.

18L'Amour: From New York. Large, bright red, firm, conic fruit with a fancy calyx. Yield has been variable across the region. Plants are vigorous but susceptible to red stele.

Darselect: French. Large, bright red, firm, uniform round-conic fruit with fancy calyx. Yields have been good. Flavor is sweet and mild. Plants are large, fairly vigorous, but very susceptible to leaf scorch.

Midseason

Cavendish: From Nova Scotia. Productive. Large, firm fruit with good flavor, but with an uneven ripening habit. High yield potential. Plants are moderately vigorous. Resistant to red stele and Verticillium, but susceptible to gray mold.

Kent: From Nova Scotia. High yielding. Large, attractive fruit with very good flavor. Plants are vigorous and good runner producers, but beds tend to run down after two or three seasons. No known resistance to red stele or Verticillium, susceptible to gray mold.

Jewel: From New York. Large, glossy, attractive fruit with firm texture. Very good yields. Moderate vigor and runner production. Some winter injury reported. Susceptible to red stele and Verticillium.

Mid-Late Season Allstar: From USDA/ARS Berries are large, conical and light red to orange with mild, sweet

flavor. The plants are vigorous and make runners freely. Resistant to red stele and Verticillium.

Cabot: From Nova Scotia. Very large, rough fruit, bright red, firm, but with tender skin. Plants need high vigor, i.e. good soil fertility. Plants have some resistance to red stele, but the fruit is susceptible to gray mold.

Sparkle: Excellent flavored fruit, but dark red and somewhat soft. Fruit size tends to decrease as season progresses. Plants are vigorous, copious runner producers with some resistance to red stele.

Mesabi: From Minnesota. Large attractive fruit and very good yields. Fruit tends to remain hidden under the foliage and may be tough to pick. Vigorous plants, resistant to red stele and leaf spot.

Late Season

Winona: From Minnesota. Large, firm, light-red fruit. Yields have been moderate, and some winter injury reported. Moderately vigorous plants with resistance to red stele root rot and tolerant of most leaf diseases.

Clancy: From New York. Large, dark red, round to conic fruit with good firmness. Vigorous, productive plants with some resistance to red stele.

Valley Sunset: From Nova Scotia. Large attractive fruit, with good color and firmness. Vigorous, very productive plants with a long harvest period.

Ovation: From USDA/ARS. Very late, with a more concentrated ripening period. Fruit are large and firm, slightly dark with good flavor, yields have been moderate. Vigorous plants with some root disease resistance.

(Source: 2011 New England Vegetable & Fruit Conference Proceedings)

Bramble Variety Review – Management Considerations

Nate Nourse Nourse Farms, Inc.

Before making the decision to purchase a variety, I often ask growers what their goals are. Do you want something for wholesale, retail, or pick your own? Do you want summer production, fall production, or both? Will you produce berries with or without protected structures and/or trellis? Where are they located, in the cold of zone 3 or the heat of zone 7? These questions will allow me to suggest a variety to fit their situation and should be considered in the selection process.

As a new premise to the selection process, there are several primocane varieties that offer very good summer production with the normal fall season production. These varieties are true everbearers and are the first I recommend for high tunnel production. There are also some varieties sold as summer bearers that produce a late fall harvest. The variety Prelude is a great example.

Trellis systems can boost production by 20-30% and the swing arm trellis can help blackberries grow in more northern climates. Research has shown that planting blackberries in a real greenhouse will help facilitate survival through the winters in zones 3, 4 and 5. High tunnels with trellis can double production potentials for all varieties.

Consequently, just choosing a variety because it tastes good will not always deliver successful results. It is very important to know your soil, starting with a soil test. As with all raspberries, planting in a rich well drained soil with drip irrigation will yield the best results. Too many raspberry growers still plant on flat beds, raised beds are always superior for any variety. Trellising is not an expense, it is an investment. On average, a good trellis and pruning effort will yield 50% more berries. Like most things in life a little extra effort will yield more successful harvests.

Nourse Farms will offer over 20 varieties of Raspberries for 2012 including Red, Gold, Black, and Purple. We will also offer 8 varieties of blackberries. In the time allotted today, we will explore about half of the selections offered, starting with our top ten sellers. Before beginning I want to be sure everyone understands the following terminology. **Primocane** - a perennial raspberry that bears fruit on first year canes. Also known as everbearing, they can produce berries the following summer on canes that survived the winter. While berries are produced, not every variety will yield fresh market quality.

Florican – a perennial raspberry that bears fruit the second year of cane growth that survives the winter. I will discuss ways to help plants survive the winter in my pruning presentation tomorrow. **Commercial Everbearer**

– a primocane variety that produces two marketable crops per year. **Prelude** is a late producing primocane variety that we treat as a florican. Many growers have been surprised by its abundant fall harvest especially during a late fall. Some would consider it a commercial everbearer. We top this variety at or below the lowest fruited spur before winter. This variety is a top seller because it is the earliest producing florican, starting by June 25th for us. I recommend this variety to be planted as 20-30% of a summer raspberry planting.

85It finishes before Encore begins. The berry can be soft, especially during high temperatures and if it is not picked every other day. Prelude performs in many climates, it is subject to winter damage in zone 4. **Nova** is also a very late primocane that we treat as a florican. This is the most widely adapted raspberry variety we sell. The start of harvest usually coincides with the first sweet corn harvest (hint to vegetable growers) during the first week of July. Berry production is very good with firm fruit. While I personally prefer Lauren, I plant this variety because I can almost guarantee a harvest every year.

Encore is a late season florican with great winter hardiness. In the Mid West, growers have struggled with this variety on heavy soils. The fruit is very large, firm and has great flavor. Encore continues to be one of my best producers and is highly recommended. **Octavia** is our latest variety that bridges the gap from summer to fall production. This variety has a large berry with good flavor. The final harvest was in the second week of August. While some growers have been discouraged with its winter hardiness, many growers were satisfied. This variety may not be as flavorful as Taylor, but it will out produce it.

Jewel black raspberry leads the pack of black raspberries. Pruning and trellising has helped us achieve yields almost as good as red varieties. We have also seen our biggest berries on shorter laterals. This is a variety that needs to be replaced by the 8th season that means planting replacements the 6th or 7th season. The season is short for this variety, season extension with Bristol and Mac Black is recommended.

Triple Crown is considered the best tasting blackberry variety. Unfortunately, it doesn't like our New England winter low temperatures. Regular harvests occur in zone 6 or higher. I recommend this variety be planted on a swing arm trellis or a small greenhouse. This variety ripens ten days to two weeks before Chester.

Natchez blackberry has indicated similar winter hardiness to Triple Crown and picks 1-2 weeks earlier. This

thornless variety is the earliest, biggest berry and has great flavor. A great choice for a swing arm trellis or greenhouse planting. This one will wow all of your customers. **Chester** blackberry is the most winter hardy thornless variety. It is very productive and will produce to Labor Day and slightly beyond. The best flavor occurs when fully ripe which is slightly beyond what I would consider wholesale quality.

Anne is the only golden variety we offer, but is capable of fruiting as a Commercial Everbearer. Summer and fall harvests of the largest best tasting golden raspberries will occur with a little extra effort. They are susceptible to botrytis and need regular fungicide applications. On hot days, we try to pick the berries in the morning.

Heritage is a great old variety, but it is the last variety I would recommend for New England growers. Since we switched, our sales increased 20% because other primocane varieties begin ripening 3-4 weeks earlier.

Polana is the earliest primocane we offer. Many growers have struggled to get it to grow taller than 3 or 4 feet. I still recommend that growers apply a double shot of nitrogen through June. We have seen our best results with the combination of fertigation and dry fertilizer with slow release nitrogen. A grower in Washington showed us plants that were over 6 feet tall. The bigger the plant grows, the larger the berry size and yield. I like to prune the rows back in the fall after picking most of the berries off the edges of the rows.

Autumn Britten is one of the most disease resistant raspberry plants. It has always been a favorite for flavor and firmness, its yield is much less than most new primocanes. Many growers consider this variety a Commercial Everbearer. It doesn't like heavier soils.

Caroline picks a week earlier than Heritage and is twice the size. It has great flavor and yield. To reach its full yield potential, it should be planted in zone 6 or higher. If exposed to high summer temperatures and it is not drip

irrigated the first few pickings will give crumbly berries. Floricane harvest also tends to be crumbly. While I recommend all raspberries be trellised, this one must be trellised.

Joan J has very yield potentials, but it must be trellised and thinned. The top trellis wire should be at least 50-60 inches high. Our new trellis had the highest yield, the highest of the 4 wires was 72 inches. I would also suggest trying a double T trellis. Joan J's berries are large and flavorful with a very smooth texture. They will get very dark if not picked every other day, this would be of concern for those selling to super markets. As a commercial everbearer it has a lot of potential, I'm not sure it will always overwinter in zone 5 or lower. This variety is a great choice for tunnel production. It is susceptible to late rust.

Polka is one of our newest primocane varieties with great potential. Berries are large and firm with good flavor. It is one I recommend to replace Autumn Britten. In many growing areas, it is a favorite to grow in tunnels. I believe it has the potential to be a Commercial Everbearer. The planting will get too thick and must be thinned to maintain berry size.

Prime Ark® 45 is quickly being recognized to be a high performing primocane blackberry. It is not thorn less, but the spines are modest compared to other thorny varieties. As Prime Ark® 45 ripens later in the season than either Prime Jim or Prime Jan. it is not adapted to as northerly areas, but a excellent candidate for tunnel production. We have publicized the proper tipping procedure for both Jim and Jan. Prime Ark® 45 also needs to be tipped, but the timing and the procedure is different to achieve the best performance. The very large sized berries and great blackberry taste mark Prime Ark® 45 to be a great performer. (*Source: 2011 New England Vegetable & Fruit Conference Proceedings*)

BLUEBERRY

Blueberry Variety Review Courtney Weber, Cornell University

The most critical aspect of establishing a healthy berry planting is obtaining high quality planting stock that has a vigorous root system and is free from disease and insect pests. The plants should be obtained from a reputable nursery that participates in a certification program to ensure plants are free from diseases such as viruses and root diseases. Mother plants or stock plants derived from tissue culture for starting propagation fields provide the best source of disease and pest free plants. Plants should be ordered well in advance of planting to ensure an adequate supply the desired varieties and plant sizes.

Blueberry nursery plants come in a variety of types (bare root, container grown, tissue culture) and sizes (rooted cuttings, tissue culture plugs, and 2-3 year old plants). Larger plants will mature and produce a crop sooner than smaller plants. Container grown plants may have some advantage to bare root plants, especially if planting is delayed in the spring because they withstand temperature and moisture fluctuations better. However, shipping of containerized plants is more expensive and they may require root pruning if they are root bound when they

arrive.



Several characteristics should be considered when selecting varieties including harvest season, yield, fruit quality, hardiness, growth habit, vigor, and disease resistance. The plants go dormant in late fall and over winter in the field. Storing capacity varies greatly among varieties but is considerably higher for blueberries than most other berries. The market has also shifted towards larger fruit for various reasons including greater consumer appeal and increased harvest efficiency, but there is a good market for small “wild type” blueberries from low bush types. Most of the processing market is machine-harvested fruit and some fresh market fruit is sorted from machine harvested lots as well.

Variety Descriptions

Early Season

Bluetta is very hardy but has small dark berries that are difficult to machine harvest and somewhat unattractive in the fresh pack. The large scar on the berry is also a problem. This variety has a weak growth habit and must be pruned carefully to maintain vigor and yield. Winter hardy to -35°C.

Duke is considered the best early season cultivar available. It has late bloom that avoids many frosts and still produces an early crop. The fruit size and quality is very good but the flavor can be bland if picked late. It can be machine harvested. Frost tolerance and winter hardiness is good. Winter hardy to -25°C.

Hannah’s Choice produces medium large fruit with high sugar content. The fruit is firmer with better flavor than Duke. Yields are moderate.

Spartan fruit is firm and very large with very good flavor. A late bloom date avoids many frosts, but it still produces a large, early crop. It does best on ideal sites but performs poorly in soils that have to be highly amended for blueberries. It harvests well mechanically and has some resistance to mummy berry. It requires cross-pollination for best yields. Winter hardy to -25°C.

Mid-Season

Berkley berries are light blue, firm and very large with very good storage capacity. Fruit flavor is fair. Winter

hardiness is moderate. The bush is moderately tall and spreading and suitable for machine harvesting. Care should be taken in pruning to maintain bush shape. Winter hardy to -25°C.

Bluecrop is the most widely planted mid-season cultivar in the world. It produces high yields of medium sized, firm fruit with good flavor. It is hardy in all but the coldest sites and can be machine harvested. The canes tend to be weepy so care should be taken to maintain the shape. It has very good disease resistance. Winter hardy to -25°C.

Bluejay has an upright open growth habit that grows rapidly. It produces moderate crops of medium sized, high quality fruit that can be machine harvested and ships well. It is resistant to some viral diseases and moderately resistant to mummy berry. Winter hardy to -25°C.

Blueray is also a widely planted mid-season cultivar. Fruit size is very good with good flavor and high yield potential. Extra pruning is needed with this spreading bush, as canes tend to weep due to heavy bearing. It has very good winter hardiness. Winter hardy to -25°C.

Cara’s Choice produces medium sized fruit with 30% more sugar than Duke and Bluecrop. The fruit can hold on the plant for an extended period before harvest. The bush is low to moderate in vigor. Yields are moderate compared to Bluecrop.

Chippewa is a very winter hardy half-high variety that is productive with large firm fruit. Winter hardy to -35°C.

Draper produces a concentrated harvest between Duke and Bluecrop that can be machine harvested, even for fresh market. The flavor is very good with good hardiness.

Northland is very winter hardy. It is an extremely productive half-high type with medium sized, dark, soft fruit. It can reach 1.25 m tall and produces many canes, which require heavy annual pruning. Winter hardy to -35°C.

Patriot is winter hardy but frost sensitive due to early bloom. The fruit is large and firm with a small blossom scar. Full ripeness is needed for good flavor and sweetness. The bush is small to medium and grows slowly but is still productive. It must be pruned hard for large fruit and be fully ripe for best flavor. Suspected susceptibility to tomato ringspot virus has limited its use in recent years, but it is more tolerant to heavier soils than most varieties. Winter hardy to -25°C.

Sierra is productive and has large firm berries that can be machine harvested. It has a medium sized bush and is less hardy than other cultivars. Winter hardy to -25°C.

Toro is a productive cultivar with large fruit that ripen uniformly. The clusters tend to be tight which makes picking harder. The canes tend to be too upright and thick.

Competes with Bluecrop, which may be somewhat better in quality. Winter hardy to -25°C.

Rubel is a wild selection that can be grown for the natural foods market. The fruit is small, firm and dark like low bush varieties. The flavor is fair and yields are moderate. It has very good winter hardiness. Winter hardy to -35°C.



Late Season

Aurora is the latest variety available, producing 5 days after Elliot. The fruit is very firm and stores well. It colors early and can be tart if picked too soon. The fruit size is large with very good yield.

Bluegold produces medium sized berries with small, dry blossom scars. It has good flavor and firmness. It is a low growing bush with many branches and very good hardiness. Winter hardy to -25°C.

Brigitta produces large, firm, flavorful fruit that stores well. It is vigorous but can be less hardy because it grows late into the fall. Excess nitrogen will make this worse. It is susceptible to Phomopsis. Winter hardy to -25°C.

Chandler produces very large berries with good flavor. It has a long ripening season over 6 weeks, which is better for hand harvesting. The bush is vigorous with a slightly spreading habit that can reach 1.5 to 2 m high. Winter hardy to -25°C.

Elliott is a very late season berry with very good shelf life, 30-45 days in a modified atmosphere. The fruit is large and firm but can be tart because it turns blue before ripe. It is a good producer. The bush has an upright habit and forms a dense center that should be pruned to promote air movement. Winter hardy to -25°C.

Jersey is an old (1928) cultivar that is adapted to a wide soil range. It has high yields of machine-harvested fruit but the berries are small and soft. The bush has an upright habit and forms a dense center that should be pruned to promote air movement. Winter hardy to -35°C.

Liberty produces fruit approximately 5 days before Elliot with better flavor. The plants are vigorous and upright with good hardiness. The fruit has very good storage capacity.

(Source: *New York Berry News*, Vol. 10, No. 10, December 2011)

GRAPE

Wine and Table Grape Varieties for New England

Bruce Reisch, Cornell University

In climates outside the range of typical grape growing regions of the world, grape growers are faced with challenges due to a range of climate related factors. Disease pressure may be more severe, and cold temperatures experienced either in mid-winter or just after bud break may result in catastrophic crop losses. New varieties are being developed at Cornell University with a number of goals in mind. Cold hardiness and disease resistance plus excellence in wine and table grape quality are of greatest importance. In this presentation, the role played by Cornell's new grape variety releases in expanding the spectrum of options available to growers will be reviewed. Four new varieties have been named at Cornell's New York State Agricultural Experiment Station since 2003. These and other breeding program varieties and selections are reviewed here.

White Wine Grapes:

'Valvin Muscat'™ - (formerly NY62.0122.01 - Muscat du Moulin x Muscat Ottonel) produces an excellent, high quality muscat wine, without bitterness, that may be made into a dessert wine or used in blending. Own-rooted vines

are small (1.4 lb./vine in Geneva), and therefore grafting is recommended. Though grafting improves vine size, planting at somewhat closer than normal spacing (approx. six feet between vines within rows) may also improve vineyard productivity. The fruit is highly flavored, very juicy, and ripens mid-season. Released in 2006 and a royalty is charged on vine sales.

Spring 2004 % live nodes following a very cold winter: 28% Trunks: Moderately hardy. Some trunks were damaged in 2004.

'Traminette' (Joannes-Seyve 23-416 x 'Gewürztraminer') – Gaining in popularity throughout the eastern United States, 'Traminette' is a late mid-season white wine grape, which produces wine with pronounced varietal character likened to one of its parents, 'Gewürztraminer'. It is distinguished by its superior wine quality combined with good productivity, partial resistance to several fungal diseases, and cold hardiness superior to its acclaimed parent, 'Gewürztraminer'. The balance between sugar, acidity and pH is excellent.

Released in 1996 as a public domain variety for domestic use only.

NY76.0844.24 - ('Traminette' x Ravat 34) makes a top ranked floral, muscat wine. Own rooted vines have been highly productive and highly vigorous in limited testing in Geneva. Clusters are large and loose. Leaf phylloxera have been an occasional problem. Maturity is mid-season, ripening in mid-late September in Geneva.

Spring 2004 % live nodes: 81% Trunks: Very hardy.

NY81.0315.17 - ('Cayuga White' x 'White Riesling') produces a floral and sometimes spicy light muscat wine. Highly rated for wine quality for several years. Own-rooted vines are small; therefore grafted vines were planted and added to our trials in 1999. Botrytis rot has been negligible and winter primary bud hardiness ranks better than Cayuga, and with many French- American hybrids.

Red Wine Grapes:

'Corot noir'TM - (pronounced "kor-OH nwahr"; formerly NY70.0809.10 - SV 18-307 x 'Steuben') A late-season red wine grape, suitable for either blending or the production of varietal wines. The wine has a deep red color and attractive cherry and berry fruit aromas. A distinct improvement in the red wine varietal options available to cold climate grape growers, wines are free of the hybrid aromas typical of many other red hybrid grapes. The vine is vigorous and very productive at Geneva. Some cluster thinning is usually required to avoid overcropping. Vines are healthy with good powdery mildew and Botrytis rot resistance. Released in 2006 and a royalty is charged on vine sales.

Spring 2004 % live nodes: 75% Trunks: Moderately hardy. Among 13 vines, 8 had no damage, and 5 were either killed to the ground or had crown gall.

'Noiret'TM - (pronounced "nwahr-AY"; formerly NY73.0136.17 - [(NY33277 x Chancellor) x Steuben]) The distinctive red wine is richly colored and has notes of green and black pepper along with raspberry, blackberry, and some mint aromas. A major distinguishing characteristic of this selection is the fine tannin structure. This combined with the relative freedom from hybrid aromas strongly distinguishes this selection from other red hybrid grapes. Vines have generally been highly vigorous and productive in the Finger Lakes of New York, though older vines occasionally show a slow decline in vigor that may be indicative of a need for grafting. The leaves show moderate resistance to powdery mildew, but both fruit and leaves require a regular spray program to control downy mildew. Fruit maturity is mid-to late-season, approx. Oct. 1 in Geneva. Released in 2006 and a royalty is charged on vine sales.

Spring 2004 % live nodes: ~53% (very little fruit production) Trunks: Expect some damage after cold winters. All 14 vines at Geneva required trunk renewal in

2004. If grafted, the graft union must be protected by hilling up in the fall.

'GR 7' - ("Geneva Red 7") - (Buffalo x Baco noir) Vines are highly vigorous, highly productive and winter hardy, with moderate resistance to diseases. 'GR 7' makes dark red wines with a classical hybrid aroma. It has better tannin structure than 'Baco noir' and 'De Chaunac', yet it still has a short finish. Use hot pressing, short skin contact time or some carbonic maceration. It has a place in traditional red hybrid blended wines, and has been used for a number of years in commercial wine production. Released in 2003.

Spring 2004 % live nodes: 93% Trunks: very hardy

Future plans: - what's on the "drawing board"?

Disease Resistance Breeding: A large portion of our program focuses on breeding highly disease resistant varieties selected under "no-spray" conditions. One selection with potential for production under no-spray or minimal spray conditions is described below:

NY95.0301.01 – Wine grape with high disease resistance and potential to produce red wines of good quality. Most years at Geneva, NY, fruit and foliage are free of downy and powdery

mildew, and only a low level of black rot appears under fungicide-free conditions. In 2009, under ideal climatic conditions for downy mildew development, moderate foliar symptom appeared in September, but not prior to that. The vine is moderately productive (>13 lbs. fruit/vine) and winter hardy (estimated temperature of 50% primary bud kill in mid-winter is -14 F). Wine is very drinkable and enjoyable, with clean light aroma, nice mouth feel, good structure, and blueberry fruit character. The color is dark red and the wine has little hybrid character. It has been well-received by taste panels.

Selected Seedless Varieties for the Northeast:

Marquis, a cross of Athens x Emerald Seedless released in 1996, is a white seedless grape from Geneva, with excellent, mild American flavor. The berries are large, often 3.5 to 5.0 grams/berry, with juicy, melting texture. Clusters are large and attractive, while the vines are moderately hardy, and very productive. Ripening in New York is between 15 and 30 September. Diseases must be controlled due to powdery mildew and black rot susceptibility. The vine is sensitive to gibberellic acid use, which is therefore not recommended. Well-timed cluster thinning and cane girdling can increase berry size and improve cluster compactness. Vines are moderately hardy, medium in vigor and productive.

Himrod, produced from a cross between Ontario and Thompson Seedless, is the most successful table grape released from the Cornell University grape breeding program (1952). It produces large bunches of white seedless grapes with excellent, honey-like flavor and melting, juicy texture. The clusters are loosely filled, but

cane girdling, gibberellic acid treatments, or cluster thinning may be used to increase cluster compactness and improve berry size. Despite these cultural defects, Himrod is presently the most commercially important of the seedless grapes grown in New York (cluster weight = 0.36 lb., berry weight = 2.1 g).

Einset Seedless (Plant patent 6160) is a winter-hardy, red seedless grape with a unique, strawberry-like flavor. The medium sized clusters produce bright red, ovoid berries that have good storage potential until the end of November. The skin is slightly tough and adheres to the tender flesh. Cultural problems include susceptibility to fungal diseases and a seed remnant that is occasionally noticeable. Along with Vanessa, Einset Seedless probably has the most commercial promise of the red seedless varieties that can be grown successfully in New York (cluster weight = 0.32 lb., berry weight = 2.3 g).

Vanessa was developed by the Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario, Canada, and is a red dessert grape of excellent quality. The vine is moderately vigorous and among the hardiest of seedless grapes. Grafting may be desirable on many sites to increase vine size (however, vines grafted on Teleki 5C at trials in Fredonia, New York have shown poor fruit set with very small berries). The seed remnant is usually large and soft; when noticeable, it is sometimes a cause for limited marketability. Berries are medium in size on medium, well-filled clusters. Storage potential is good. The flavor is mild and fruity, and berry texture is firm to crisp. The fruit quality is among the best of the red seedless types.

Canadice is more winter hardy than most seedless grapes, although trunk injury has occurred on some sites. It produces medium clusters with small red berries that are similar to Delaware in

flavor and appearance. With cordon training systems and careful management, Canadice clusters may average 0.5 lb., and the vines can be extremely productive. Fruit rot is a problem in wet years because the clusters are excessively compact (cluster weight = 0.50 lb., berry weight = 1.6 grams).

Mars (Plant patent 5680), a release from the University of Arkansas, is a vigorous, blue seedless grape. The flavor is mildly labrusca, similar to Campbell's Early, and the berries are slipskin. Clusters are medium-sized, cylindrical, and well filled. Hardiness has been good at Geneva, New York. High vigor; has the least susceptibility to common grape diseases among the Arkansas varieties, but still requires fungicide applications for disease control; resistant to fruit cracking; occasional seed traces found in some berries in some

years. Mars has been recommended in Arkansas as a home garden grape with limited potential for commercial marketing (cluster weight = 0.40 lb., berry weight = 3 grams in Arkansas)

Jupiter (Plant patent 13,309) - This early maturing blue variety has large, firm, non-slipskin berries on medium sized clusters. Fruit has a distinct muscat flavor. It's in very early stages of testing at Cornell, so hardiness is not yet determined. In Arkansas, it is rated as hardier than Einset Seedless, Himrod, and Marquis, but not as hardy as Mars and Reliance. Medium vigor; resistant to fruit cracking; moderate resistance to common fungal diseases but does require fungicide sprays for successful production; small, soft seed traces observed occasionally but not noticeable due to berry texture. (cluster weight = 0.40 lb., berry weight = 4 to 5 grams in Arkansas)

Testing Cornell breeding program selections: As soon as the most elite selections in the breeding program are identified, they are propagated for testing beyond our Geneva campus. We typically offer these first to University and Experiment Station cooperators, and then to grower cooperators. Vines are distributed for test purposes prior to release via two commercial nurseries: Double A Vineyards (Fredonia, NY; <<http://www.rakgrape.com/>>) and Grafted Grapevine Nursery (Clifton Springs, NY; <<http://www.graftedgrapevines.com/>>).

For more information:

For current information about the Grape Breeding program at Geneva: <<http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/hort/faculty/reisch/grapeinfo.html>> and

<<http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/hort/faculty/reisch/cultivars.html>>

Complete bulletins describing all Cornell grape variety releases are available on the internet, or as Adobe Acrobat PDF files, at the above web sites. In addition, general reviews of options available among grape varieties are found at these three web sites:

<<http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/hort/faculty/reisch/bulletin/wine/>>

<<http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/hort/faculty/reisch/bulletin/table/>>

<<http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/hort/faculty/reisch/winehandout.html>>

(Source: 2009 New England Vegetable & Fruit Conference Proceedings)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Currant and Gooseberry Cultivar Descriptions

Anthony Bratsch, Extension Specialist, Vegetables and Small Fruit; Jerry Williams, Associate Professor, Horticulture

Currant Cultivars

Most currants are self-fruitful; therefore, only one cultivar is needed for fruit production. However, currants will produce better and larger fruit crops when more than one cultivar is planted and cross pollination occurs.

Red Currants

Cascade. Early. Fruit are large, medium dark red, and produced on short strigs. Plants are erect to slightly sprawling and of medium productivity and vigor. Berries are susceptible to sunscald and should be picked promptly.

Jonkeers van Tets. Popular early- to mid-season selection from Holland. Fruit are dark red and soft, have very good flavor, and are on medium-size strigs. Plants bloom early and are heavy producers. Growth habit is not uniform. Plants are mildew and aphid resistant, but gray mold (*Botrytis* spp.), a common fruit rot fungus (also called “run-off”), can be a problem for production in wet years.

Detvan. Mid-season selection from Slovakia. Plants are very large, robust, and upright. Fruit are large and produced on very long strigs, often with as many as 25 to 30 berries per strig. Very high yielding. Good resistance to gray mold. Should be planted on at least five-foot row centers.

Red Lake. Mid- to late-season. Fruit are large, firm, light red, and sub-acid. Has high juice content and easy-to-pick long strigs. Plants are productive, upright, dense, and hardy. Susceptible to mildew. Has a low tolerance to frost. Easily found in nurseries.

Wilder. Mid- to late-season. Fruit are large, dark red, sub-acid, and produced on large, compact clusters. Plants are productive, large, and upright to spreading. Resistant to leaf spots.

Rovada. Late-season. Fruit are large and produced on long compact strigs. This cultivar is a dependable bearer and productive. Blooms late, so frost can be less of a problem than with other cultivars. Resistant to mildew and other leaf diseases.

Tatran. Late-season. A sister selection of ‘Detvan,’ with many similar characteristics. Plants are robust and upright. Fruit are very large and produced on long strigs of 25 to 30 berries. Very high yielding and resistant to grey mold. Should be planted at least five feet apart both within the row and between rows. Canes become very heavy with fruit and may need some support.

White and Pink Currants

White and pink currants are more difficult to find. They grow like red currants, but have a less acidic, sweeter,

unique flavor. The fruit are small, white to yellowish, and opaque to translucent (Figure 4).



□ **Figure 4.** White currant fruit cluster at harvest time, unknown cv. (Photo courtesy Steve McKay, Cornell University)

White Imperial. Mid-season. One of most commonly available white varieties. Lowest acidity of currant cultivars. Produces small fruit on long strigs. Yields are moderate. Plants have a spreading growth habit.

Pink Champagne. Mid- to late-season. Quality and flavor are good. Fruit are a translucent pink color. Yields are generally low. Plants are vigorous, upright, and resistant to leaf diseases.

Blanka. Late-season. Known for heavy yields and dependability. Produces long strigs of large, opaque, offwhite fruit; tart when immature. Plants are vigorous and spreading, and are easy to grow. Flowers in midspring, avoiding late frosts.

Primus. Late-season. Has white to yellowish fruit on upright, vigorous plants. Similar to Blanka in fruit quality, but yields may be slightly lower.

Black Currants

Black currants are prized for their strong aroma, flavor, and high vitamin C content. Some cultivars, particularly those that are purely *Ribes nigrum*, are highly susceptible to WPBR. Resistance has been developed in cultivars by crossing with *R. nigrum* and *R. ussurienses*. However, juice and processing quality of initial crosses (‘Crusader,’ ‘Coronet,’ ‘Consort’) are considered substandard as

compared to standard nonresistant cultivars. Recent backcrosses (crosses back to a parent) have resulted in new cultivars such as ‘Titania,’ which have retained near-immunity to WPBR. These backcrosses also have improved commercial traits such as tolerance of adverse weather at flowering and suitability for machine harvest. In addition, they have a long hang time, even fruit-ripening within clusters, high yield, improved resistance to mildew and leaf diseases, and better juice quality. Black currants nonresistant to WPBR are not recommended and usually are the target group still prohibited by law. There are a few new Russian seedling selections that are being increased in number for distribution and will become available in the near future. These selections are variable in resistance to mildew and WPBR. Many of these selections are large-fruited and in general, much more palatable for fresh use than black currant cultivars that are currently available.

Ben Sarek. Early-season. Known for strong set of very large fruit, ease of hand harvest, and tolerance to frost and cold injury. Good for processing. Growth habit is very compact. Recommended for small-scale growers with limited land area. Has slight to moderate resistance to WPBR.

Consort. Early- to mid-season. Fruit are medium-small with medium firmness. Juice quality is fair. It does not machine harvest well. Plants are self-fertile with dependable set, but are rated fair in productivity. Susceptible to leaf spot and mildew. Resistant to WPBR.

Coronet and Crusader. Similar to ‘Consort,’ but both require pollinators. Yields and quality are poor. Resistant to WPBR.

Ben Lomond. Mid-season. Known for even ripening and high yields of large, firm fruit that have a long hang time and high vitamin C content despite high pectin levels. Plants are compact yet spreading, and have good frost tolerance at flowering. Plants have variable resistance to mildew and slight resistance to WPBR. (Figure 5).



□ **Figure 5.** Black currant at harvest time, ‘Ben Lomond’ cv. (Photo courtesy of Dick McGinnis, McGinnis Berry Crops, <http://www.berrycrops.net/>)

Gooseberry Cultivars

American gooseberry cultivars are more disease resistant, more productive, healthier, and more adaptable to varied climatic conditions than European cultivars, which have the advantages of large fruit size, good color, and sweet flavor. However, lack of disease resistance and marginal hardiness has limited European cultivar use in North America, and a stringent disease management program is required to grow them. Despite the huge number of European cultivars in existence, few are commonly available in the U.S. Specialty nurseries may carry selections or they may be found through grower interest groups such as the North American Fruit Explorers. Newer European cultivars with American genetic disease resistance are being developed and introduced. In comparison, few new commercial American cultivars are on the market, and most commercial American cultivars have been around for many years. While the true genetic lines are somewhat blurred between American and European gooseberries, there still remains a distinct separation of the two types (Figures 6a,b).



Figure 6a. American gooseberries harvested at green mature stage. (Photo courtesy Zoë Ann Holmes, Food Resource site, Oregon State University, <http://food.oregonstate.edu/>)



Figure 6b. European type gooseberry, unknown cv. (Photo courtesy Steve McKay, Cornell University)

American Origin

Poorman. Early- to mid-season. Fruit are red, medium size, and oval shaped. Fruit ripens over a long period and is of high quality. The flavor is sprightly sweet. Plants are vigorous and are the largest of American cultivars. Plants are also productive, upright, dense with few short thorns, and are mildew resistant.

Oregon Champion. Mid-season. Fruit are small to medium in size, round to oval, and pale white to greenish-yellow at maturity. The fruit have thin skin and are juicy and tart. Plants are large, vigorous, upright to spreading, and productive. They are somewhat susceptible to mildew.

Captivator. Late-season. This cultivar is an American-European hybrid. Fruit are large, pink to red, teardropshaped, and sweet. Plants are mildew resistant with few thorns. Yields are moderate.

Pixwell. From North Dakota. Fruit of medium size, pink, in clusters, and fair quality. Plants are vigorous, productive, have few thorns, and are hardy. Mildewresistant. Recommended for home garden use. Best if used slightly under-ripe.

Welcome. Released by the University of Minnesota. Fruit are a dull red and medium to large size. Plants are hardy and have few spines.

European Origin

Careless. Mid-season. Fruit are large, oval, and pale green to milky white when ripe with smooth transparent skin. Plants are moderately vigorous, upright to spreading, and very susceptible to mildew.

Clark. Mid- to late-season. Fruit are very large, red, and of high quality. Plants are thorny, dense, short with branches close to the ground, moderate in vigor, and productive. Thought to be a natural American- European cross. Plants are very susceptible to mildew.

Hinnonmaki Red and Hinnonmaki Yellow. Developed in Finland. Fruit are red and green-yellow respectively. Hinnonmaki Red fruit are medium size; Hinnonmaki Yellow fruit are smaller. With both, the skin is tart, but the flesh is sweet, aromatic and has very good flavor. Plants are short, moderate in vigor, and upright to slightly spreading. H. Red is more mildew resistant than H. Yellow. Both are thorny. H. Red is also known (erroneously) as Leppa Red.

Industry. Older, large cultivar with slightly hairy red fruit. May be difficult to find. Plants are very susceptible to mildew.

Invicta. Early- to mid-season. Fruit are large and pale green with a bland flavor. This cultivar is often used for processing, where it provides an even color and flavor. Plants are large and very productive, and have numerous spines. Resistance to mildew (but not to other leaf spots) is good.

Tixia. Mid- to late-season. Recent introduction, large cultivar, noted for semi-thornless character, and red fruit; vigorous and productive. Resistant to mildew.

(*Source: Virginia Cooperative Extension Specialty Crop Profile: Ribes at <http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/438/438-107/438-107.html>*)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Beginning Farmer Online Marketing Course Offered

Cathy Heidenreich, Cornell University

Online Course in Marketing for Beginning Farmers Offered This Winter Through Cornell University.

The Beginning Farmer Project at Cornell University is offering an online course series in marketing strategy for new and start-up farmers. The online course is designed to help farmers better understand how to price products, position yourself in the growing "buy local" marketplace, online and physical location sales, as well as guerrilla marketing tactics.

Webinars

The bulk of the course happens on students' own time, with discussions, readings, and assignments in a virtual classroom. There will be weekly webinars to allow farmers to learn from outside presenters, ask questions, and collaborate with other participants and the instructors. Webinars will be from 7-8:30 p.m. EST on Wednesdays Jan. 4-Feb. 8. Webinars will be recorded.

Target Audience

New farmers with 1-3 years of farm experience and serious aspiring new farmers who have already explored the basics of marketing and are ready for a more formal marketing strategy.

Course Objectives

This course will help farmers: Link your farm's mission and vision to your commercial goals and marketing strategy Understand the key elements of a solid marketing plan Understand and use effective marketing strategies Understand and use various pricing strategies with your products Create a multi-tiered marketing strategy incorporating traditional and guerrilla marketing tactics

Qualifying for Loans

Students that successfully complete the course are eligible for borrower training credits through the USDA New York State Farm Service Agency. Borrower training

credits may help farmers improve eligibility for a low-interest beginning farmer loan through the USDA Farm Service Agency. For more information, visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=fmlp&topic=bfl>

Instructors

Laura Biasillo is an Ag Educator with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Broome County. **Rebecca Schuelke Staehr** is an agricultural consultant and owner-operator of Cayuga Pumpkin Barn in Cayuga, NY.

Course Outline

Week 1: Navigating the online classroom, introductions and welcome to course Topic(s) Covered: Introduction to Marketing; Mission Statement, Goals & Overview of Market Channels (retail, wholesale, etc...)

Week 2: Marketing Strategy - Where Do I Fit in this "Buy Local" market?

Topics Covered: Who are your customers? How Do They Get Their Information? How Do You Access Them?

Week 3: Expense Budgets - How Much Should I Charge (or How Much Does It Really Cost Me to Produce This Product?)

Topics Covered: Sales Tactics, Expenses (real & perceived), Promotions (incl. point of purchase), Pricing

Week 4: Marketing Tactics

Topic(s) Covered: Low-Cost, No-Cost, Cooperation and More

Week 5: Tying it all Together: Implementation of Marketing Tactics, Pricing and Local/Global Economy

Week 6: Overview of Marketing Plan

Cost and Registration

Course fee is \$175. Students are not eligible for college credit. To register, go online: http://nebeginningfarmers.org/online_courses/register_for_upcoming_courses/

(*Source: New York Berry News, Vol. 10, No. 10, December 2011*)

Spotted Wing Drosophila – What We Learned in 2011

Kathy Demchak, Alex Surcičă, Dave Biddinger, Penn State University

Though many of us expected to find spotted wing drosophila (SWD) in Pennsylvania in 2011, the widespread occurrence and sheer numbers found during the fall in some locations were surprising. Because of high SWD infestations, some growers gave up on harvesting fall raspberries and day-neutral strawberries. The problem was probably made worse by drenching rains from Hurricanes Irene and Lee, which ruined berries that were then left in the field. SWD and other vinegar flies multiplied in the unharvested fruit, which then resulted in more SWD to infest ripening fruit that otherwise could have been harvested later. Fortunately, SWD populations were relatively low this year until fall. The concern for next year is that we don't yet know how well SWD will survive the winter here, so we don't know how many will be present at the beginning of the growing season next spring.

So, where was SWD found in PA in 2011? Essentially, in every thin-skinned fruit crop in which we looked, except for spring strawberries. Personnel in the Entomology Department (D. Biddinger and post-doctoral scholar Neelendra Joshi) set out traps in various crops in south central PA, and tracked movement among crops. Within individual locations, which crops had the highest populations may have depended on what other fruit choices were available. High populations were found in cherries, fall raspberries, and blackberries, with lower populations found in blueberries. High numbers were also found in grapes in some instances, though in the Pacific Northwest (D. Walsh, personal communication). SWD

larvae in fruit were not as big of an issue in grapes as in some other crops. With the help of extension educators and growers, by the end of the growing season, we had set out traps for SWD in 16 counties in PA, and found it in all 16. That's hardly comforting. Surprisingly, high numbers were still trapped in fruit plantings in October from which fruit had been harvested for months. We also learned that it is easier, when examining specimens, to have them in vinegar or alcohol rather than on sticky cards.

During the process of trapping for SWD, most people setting out traps noticed that a number of other vinegar



Photo 1. Male Spotted Wing Drosophila. Note spot on each wing and 2 black bands on each front leg. Note that coloration on abdomen is in solid bands. (Photo by Alex Surcičă).

or fruit flies had spots on their wings. These could be



Photo 2. Male *Scaptomyza* specimen. Spot is at very tip of wing, and there are no black bands on the front legs (Photo by Alex Surcičá).

differentiated from SWD by certain characteristics. The additional species of vinegar flies that people were finding fell into 3 different genera. For comparison, Photo 1 below is a male SWD, *Drosophila suzukii*. Note the large black spot on each wing that is just a little forward of the wingtip. An additional defining characteristic of male SWD is two black bands on each front leg. Photo 2 is of a male fruit fly from a different genus (*Scaptomyza*), and was found in large numbers in strawberry plantings that had straw between the rows. This nearly put some of us in a panic at first glance, but it is not a pest of fruit crops. It feeds on decomposing straw or damaged and unmarketable fruit. Photo 3 is also a species from a different genus (*Leucophenga*) and it is known to feed on fleshy fungi.

The problems some growers experienced with SWD made apparent the fact that we either need to better understand and monitor for SWD, or face challenges when producing thin-skinned fall fruit crops. Fortunately, along with Bryan Butler from the University of Maryland, we secured funding from the NE-IPM Center through an Urgent IPM Grant, which will allow us to continue monitoring efforts for SWD in PA and MD next summer, produce a series of factsheets for growers, and present information on this pest at meetings this winter. The first factsheet in this series

will focus on differentiating SWD from other species that are similar in appearance. Additional factsheets will cover information on monitoring and management. The complete series of factsheets will be posted on the Web and will also be made available at winter meetings.

Earlier articles on SWD monitoring and management were included in the Fruit Times (http://extension.psu.edu/fruit_times/news/2011) in May and August, with an additional article appearing in the Vegetable and Small Fruit Gazette in September (http://extension.psu.edu/vegetable_fruit/newsletter/2011/issues/the_vegetable_small_fruit_gazette_september_issue/view). Information on SWD from the NE-IPM program can be found at <http://www.northeastipm.org/about-us/publications/ipm-insights/spotted-wing-drosophila-in-the-northeast/>.



Photo 3. Male *Leucophenga varia* specimen. Wing spots are further forward and are smaller than on SWD. Abdomen has spots, not bands. (Photo by Alex Surcičá).

(**Source:** Penn State Extension Vegetable and Small Fruit Gazette, Vol. 15, No. 12, December 2011 by way of New York Berry News, Vol 10, No 10, December 2011)

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- January 14, 2012** – *NOFA-MA Winter Conference*. Worcester State Univ., Worcester, MA. For detailed program and registration information go to <http://www.nofamass.org/conferences/winter/index.php>.
- January 16-18, 2012** - *North American Raspberry & Blackberry Growers Annual Meeting and Conference*. Kalahari Resort, Sandusky OH. **For more information:** call 919-542-4037, email info@raspberryblackberry.com, or visit www.raspberryblackberry.com.
- January 20-22, 2012** – *NOFA-NY Winter Conference*, Saratoga Hilton and City Center, Saratoga Springs, NY. For detailed program and registration information go to <http://www.nofany.org/events/winter-conference>.
- January 23-26, 2012** – *The Empire State Fruit & Vegetable Expo*. Oncenter Convention Center 800 South State St. Syracuse, NY. For more information go to: <https://nysvga.org/expo/>
- January 30, 2012** – *Vermont Vegetable and Berry Growers Annual Meeting*. Montpelier VT. For more into go to <http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/meetings/meetlist.html>
- January 31 – February 2, 2012** - *2012 Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention*, Hershey Lodge and Convention Center. For more information and to register, go to : <http://www.mafvc.org/html/>
- February 6-8, 2012** – *NASGA Annual Meeting and Conference*. Harrah's Las Vegas, Nevada. For more information and to register go to www.nasga.org.
- February 11-13, 2012** – *NOFA-VT Winter Conference*. University of Vermont, Burlington VT. For detailed program and registration information go to <http://nofavt.org/annual-events/winter-conference>.
- February 21-22, 2012** - *Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention Berry Program*. Embassy Suites, Scotiabank Convention Center Niagara Falls. For more information go to www.ontarioberries.com.
- March 3, 2012** – *NOFA-CT Winter Conference*, Manchester Community College Manchester, CT. For detailed program and registration information go to www.ctnofa.org/events/CAOC/2012/2012_Winter_Conference.html.
- March 19, 2012** - *NOFA-NH Winter Conference*. Exeter High School, Exeter NH. For detailed program and registration information go to <http://www.nofanh.org/winterConference>.

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