



Bleuets NB Blueberries

Field Notes

UPCOMING EVENTS

January

BNBB Annual Regional Meetings

Tuesday, January 22, 2008, 7 pm
NB Department of Agriculture and
Aquaculture office, St. George, NB.
Call 459-2583 or 453-3480
for more information.

Wednesday, January 23, 2008, 7 pm
NB Department of Agriculture and
Aquaculture boardroom, Moncton, NB.
Call 459-2583 or 453-3480
for more information.

Wednesday, January 30, 2008, 7 pm
Complexe Les Deux-Riviere,
Tracadie, NB.
Call 459-2583 or 453-3480
for more information.

Agricultural Alliance AGM

January 24 and 25, 2008
Crowne Plaza, Fredericton
Call 452-8101 for more information.

*Happy Holidays
to everyone!*

Bleuets NB Blueberries · 1350 Regent Street, HJ Flemming Centre, Rm 247, Fredericton, NB E3C 2G6
Tel. (506) 459-2583 · Toll Free 1-866-840-2583 · Fax (506) 459-8920 · bnbb@nb.aibn.com

Advance Payments Program Available to NB Producers

Bleuets NB Blueberries has signed an agreement with Agriculture Canada to provide advance payments to blueberry producers in New Brunswick.

The Advance Payments Program (APP) is a loan guarantee program that facilitates access to credit for producers. With the protection of a loan guarantee in place through an agreement with the administrator (Bleuets NB Blueberries), the lender (Royal Bank of Canada) and Agriculture Canada, the administrator is able to negotiate a loan to make cash advances to producers. Under the program, the federal government pays interest on the amount borrowed. The program will assist with producers' cash flow.

Farm businesses may borrow a maximum of \$50,000 interest free during one

production period. Producers repay the advance to the administrator at the end of the production year. A credit check is required and is usually done through the applicant's own bank or credit union.

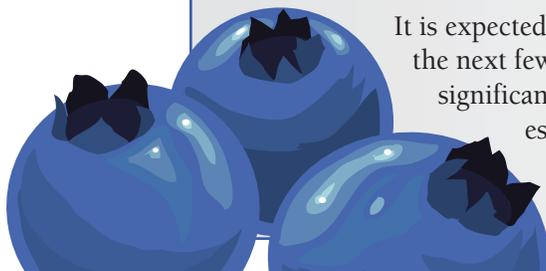
The agreement with Agriculture Canada has to be renewed each year. Funds will be available to producers starting April 1, 2008 with repayment to be made by the end of December 2008. Please note that applicants are required to have crop insurance OR be part of the CAIS program. BNBB will take applications from producers beginning January 15, 2008 and forms will be available at our regional meetings in January. Forms are also available by contacting the BNBB office in Fredericton at (506) 459-2583, toll free 1-866-840-2583 or by email at bnbb@nb.aibn.com.

New Brunswick 2007 Crop Report

Submitted by Michel Melanson

Final estimates place the 2007 wild blueberry harvest at a record breaking 26 M lbs. This represents the highest blueberry production harvested in NB, surpassing the previous mark set in 2003, when 24.1 M lbs were harvested. The 2007 crop was 24% higher than the 2006 crop and 32% above the 2005 crop when similar acreage was harvested. The northeast region of NB harvested 80% of the total crop, and was 50% higher than the regional average. Growers in the southern region harvested less than their average.

It is expected that total production will continue to increase for the next few years. The addition of new land is contributing significantly to the overall increase in production. It is estimated that nearly 27,000 acres of blueberries are now in production in NB, of which about 50% is harvested yearly.



International Market Focus

Film crews from Germany, Japan visit Atlantic region

WBANA UPDATE

Submitted by Neri Vautour

While demand for Wild Blueberries remains strong, high prices and a short supply are causing problems for many buyers. To meet these challenges, the Wild Blueberry Association of North America (WBANA) continues to adjust its promotional activities accordingly.

Germany is one of the largest users of Wild Blueberries in Europe and has long been a strong market for North American Wild Blueberries.

MK2, WBANA's public relations agency in Germany, organized a visit this past August for a German film crew to document "From the Field to the Plate, Wild Blueberries of North America". The crew visited fields in Nova Scotia and filmed at Rainbow Farms and Oxford Frozen Foods. Interviews were done with Dr. Willy Kalt and Dr. David Percival, and the province of Nova Scotia provided a helicopter to film shots from the air.

The footage that was taken will be used in WBANA's promotional activities around the world.

Japan is a key market for Wild Blueberries and WBANA continues to look for unique and cost effective ways of promoting the fruit.

This past August WBANA's public relations agency in Japan, Asahi, arranged for a Japanese film crew to travel to Atlantic Canada to produce a film looking at various facets of the Wild Blueberry industry. The final film, created for a top national Japanese television show, aired September 9. Results were very positive with millions of Japanese consumers learning more about how Wild Blueberries grow, how tasty they are and their health benefits.

These are two of many activities that WBANA undertakes for the Wild Blueberry industry.

Visit WBANA's website to learn more: www.wildblueberries.com.



Flail Mowing

Useful Environmental Practice

Funding Available

Flail mowing has become an accepted practice in most blueberry operations. It is also recognized as an important environmental practice. Producers are eligible to receive funding assistance that includes a 30% contribution up to a maximum contribution of \$15,000 per farm. This is offered under the Product and Waste Management Beneficial Management Practice (BMP) category, under the Agricultural Policy Framework, for the mulching of woody debris from blueberry pruning.

Applicant must have an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) that has been completed since February 2001. EFP must be registered with the Eastern Canada Soil and Water Conservation Centre. The BMP to be funded (ie. purchase of a blueberry flail mower) must be identified on the EFP. Producers wishing to update their EFP should contact John Russell or Mélanie Godin at the Agricultural Alliance of NB office at 506-452-8101. Application forms are also available at the following web addresses:

www.gnb.ca/0180/APF-CSA/index-E.asp

www.gnb.ca/0180/APF-CSA/index-f.asp

BNBB Website—BNBB has an updated website where producers can find BNBB newsletters, upcoming events, and links to sites with information useful to growers. There is also more general information for people interested in learning about wild blueberries. BNBB will review the website regularly to make improvements and add information. If you have ideas, suggestions or would like to become involved with the website, please call the BNBB office at (506) 459-2583 or send an email to bnbb@nb.aibn.com.

www.nbwildblue.ca



Bleuets **NB** Blueberries

Crop Updates Valuable Tool for Producers

In 2007, NBDAA began publishing regular Crop Updates and posting them on the provincial website. Crop Updates are published every two weeks during the growing season and provide valuable information for producers on blight conditions, pollination, pest management activities, and leaf disease occurrence. They are intended as a guide for producers to assist them with managing and

monitoring conditions in their fields. They also include information on upcoming events and relevant departmental information. Growers are encouraged to use Crop Updates by going to the department website at: www.gnb.ca/0027/60/index-e.asp. There is also a link from the BNBB site (www.nbwildblue.ca) to Crop Updates. Please call (506) 453-3480 for further information.

Canadian Wild Blueberry Industry Research and Development Institute

Submitted by John Cameron

We are very pleased and excited to announce that incorporation has been received for the Canadian Wild Blueberry Industry Research and Development Institute effective October 1, 2007.

In March of 2007 the members of WBPANS voted in favor of proceeding with a feasibility study to convert the old Nova Scotia Blueberry Institute to a new regional facility to take in all the wild industry in Canada. A Steering Committee was formed and a consultant hired, resulting in a working set of by-laws, a mission statement, a founding Board of Directors and an Executive.

The new Board of Directors is now charged with getting this Institute off the ground by establishing membership, a budget and provincial representation on the Board. In short, have the administration and workings of the Institute in place before we proceed any further. We are close but this is going to take some time to administer.

This is a brand new organization, that is going to be producer driven, with its focus on research and development in the wild industry.

We look forward to working with all wild blueberry organizations in this endeavor, and we will be in touch with you as soon as we get organized here. We are going to walk before we fly, and try to get this Institute launched quickly *but* effectively.

2007 Field Day

Over 150 people participated in the BNBB Field Day held at the farm of Tom and Krista Trueman in Aulac on July 14. The morning program involved equipment displays and demonstrations, and entomology, weed identification and pathology displays. There was also representation from organizations and businesses working with the blueberry industry including the Agricultural Alliance. BNBB was pleased and honoured to have as a special guest the Minister of Agriculture and Aquaculture, the Honourable Ronald Ouellette, who addressed participants during lunch. Also in attendance were Mike Olscamp, MLA for Tantramar, and Neri Vautour, Executive Director of WBANA. The afternoon was devoted to a tour of fields owned by Roland Dupuis and Malcolm Fisher. BNBB would like to thank all those who worked to help make this day a success including Gavin Graham, IPM Weed Specialist, NBDAA; Kelvin Lynch, IPM Specialist, NBDAA; Dr. Kenna MacKenzie, Research Scientist, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; and Michel Melanson, Crop Development Specialist, NBDAA.



Bleuets **NB** Blueberries

NB Beekeepers Rebuilding After Overwintering Losses

POLLINATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Richard Taylor

To address issues related to pollination within the NB blueberry industry, Bleuets NB Blueberries identified the need for a pollination committee composed of representatives from BNBB, the NB Beekeepers Association and the provincial government. Committee members include Richard Taylor (chair), Ralph Lockhart, Benoit Savoie and Mike Melanson. The group met in spring 2007 to discuss pollination issues and plans are underway for further cooperative efforts in the coming months.

Overwintering Mortality

The difficult 2006-07 winter resulted in higher than normal overwintering mortality across North American beekeeping operations. Overwintering losses averaged over 30% with some operations losing 90% of overwintered colonies. This far exceeds the average loss of 5-10%. New Brunswick beekeepers lost between 20%-80% of their colonies with an average loss of 60%. It is estimated that 3,500 honey bee colonies from NB made their way to blueberry fields, compared with the 6,000 or so in past years.

In 2007, more than 10,200 honey bee colonies were imported from Ontario and Quebec, slightly more than in 2006, with most colonies going to the northeastern region. There were nearly 14,000 colonies in NB blueberry fields, which is marginally less than last year. For blueberry growers wishing to import bees, please consult with the NB Department of Agriculture and Aquaculture for import requirements.

NB Beekeepers Rebuilding

Despite the staggering overwintering losses, beekeepers spent the summer rebuilding. The total number of colonies to be overwintered is only slightly less than last year. Beekeepers are to be congratulated on their hard work and accomplishments over the summer.

Pollinating Blueberries

The general consensus has traditionally been one bee hive per acre, but the use of two or three hives per acre has become accepted practice in recent years. With one hive, bees should pollinate enough flowers to produce 700-800 lbs of blueberries per acre. However, other factors impact the pollinating process such as temperature, wind, rain, fog condi-

tions and honey bee density in neighbouring fields.

Many growers have commented that the honey bee is an excellent pollinator, but other species such as the leaf cutter and bumble bee will do the job. Do some research to help pick the species that fits your area. Also, availability of bees will be a major consideration in selecting your pollinator of choice. If you have a beekeeper in your area develop a good business relationship, and your efforts should pay dividends. With the market value of blueberries at an all time high, the demand for pollinators will probably be greater than the supply. The fall season is the time to make arrangements with your beekeeper to meet your needs for the next pollinating season.

Maritime Initiative to Communicate Research Results Directly to Producers

The New Brunswick Agricultural Council, Prince Edward Island ADAPT Council, and Agri-Futures Nova Scotia have approved ACAAF funding for a joint initiative that will communicate results of research projects directly to producers. BNBB, WBPANS, and the PEI Wild Blueberry Growers Association will work together on this project to evaluate and summarize the results of numerous multi-year research trials conducted in the three provinces. The aim is to provide producers with a concise and easy reference tool that will help with management decisions and allow producers to contribute more fully to the discussion on research priorities ongoing in the three provinces. The goal is to have work completed and available to producers in 2008.



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada



Nova Scotia's ACAAF Council
Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food

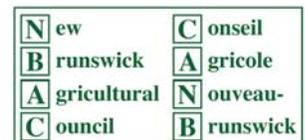


Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada

Canada

Prince Edward Island ADAPT Council



Canadian Horticultural Council

2007 Regional Report

Submitted by Anne Fowlie

The Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) represents the dynamic and diverse sector of Canadian agriculture known as horticulture. CHC members are primarily involved in the production and packing of over 120 horticulture crops including fruit, vegetables, flowers and ornamental plants. The CHC works with members on issues that help advance the growth and economic viability of the sector.

The Canadian horticulture industry is a \$5 billion industry at the farm level, before considering the upstream and downstream impacts of horticulture production on jobs, economic activity, and taxes paid to various levels of government. Members include provincial and national horticultural commodity organizations representing more than 20,000 producers in Canada.

The majority of the Council's work and initiatives are focused in the following priority areas: representation to governments and other national and international bodies, crop protection, on-farm food safety, safety nets/business risk management, human resources, commodity coordination, plant health, and international trade. Within the CHC there is a Blueberry Task Force that addresses international trade and plant health issues. Other CHC committees that look at blueberry production and marketing concerns include the Crop Protection & Environment Committee, and the Crop Protection & Advisory Committee which meets with the PMRA. Being involved with the CHC provides an opportunity for representatives from the wild blueberry sector to bring forward issues and concerns



and have them addressed by relevant governing bodies. According to Gary Brown, an official with the CHC Crop Protection & Advisory Committee, membership with the CHC is invaluable for communicating the needs of producers to regulatory agencies. As a new member, BNBB will work with the CHC on issues important to New Brunswick blueberry producers.

For further information on CHC activities, please contact the office at (613) 226-4880 (tel) or email at question@hortcouncil.ca.

Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia – Annual Meeting 2007

Submitted by Dave Sangster

The Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia held the 37th Annual General Meeting at the Best Western Glengarry Hotel & Convention Centre, Truro, NS, November 16-17, 2007. This year's meeting was a huge success, with 250-300 people in attendance during the two day event. The Friday night banquet had a record attendance of 190, with guest speaker, Dr. Jim Joseph, world renowned neuroscience wild blueberry researcher, and Drumlin, a celtic folk musical entertainment family band from Bridgewater, Nova Scotia.

Representatives from all wild blueberry growing areas attended the

meeting and participated in the program agenda. Translation services were provided for our out of Province guests from Quebec and New Brunswick.

This year's extensive Trade Show provided an opportunity to see the latest technology in the wild blueberry industry and to network with the agri-business exhibitors. The program also featured the following:

- WBPANS Domestic Promotional Activities
- Neri Vautour, Executive Director, WBANA-Canada and the International Promotional Programs.
- Wild Blueberry Health Story

- Presentations on New Research Developments in the Wild Blueberry Industry.
- Presentation by John Cameron, President of the new Canadian Wild Blueberry Industry Research & Development Institute.
- Presentation by the Nova Scotia Beekeepers Association.
- Provincial Extension Reports.
- WBPANS Annual General Business Meeting, Chaired by President Ken MacPhee.

A special thanks to all of our sponsors, exhibitors, speakers and out of province guests for their valuable support for a successful 2007 WBPANS Annual General Meeting.

Enhancing Ecological Resources on Your Farm

If you have completed, or would like to complete, an Environmental Farm Plan you may be able to receive technical and financial assistance with your plan through Ducks Unlimited (DU) Canada in partnership with Agriculture and Agri-food Canada.

DU Canada can provide an Ecological Resources Management Plan detailing potential Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) outlined on an easy to read aerial image of your farm.

Find out how increasing biodiversity on your farm can reduce soil erosion, provide a healthier and more sustainable grazing system and improve the quantity and quality of water resources. DU Canada will also provide additional funding for wetland restoration projects through the National Farm Stewardship Program.

Enhancing your ecological resources and increasing biodiversity go hand in hand with sustainable agriculture. Wetlands, shelterbelts and riparian buffers are a few of the BMPs that can increase biodiversity on your farm by providing important habitat for hundreds of species of wildlife. As well, they decrease erosion and flooding, provide shade for livestock and reduce contaminants entering waterways.

Contamination can affect both surface and groundwater and stems from sources such as overland runoff. Runoff may include water with high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus, liquid manure and milk house waste. This can enter waterways or wells

which can lead to using water that does not meet quality guidelines for irrigating crops, watering livestock and personal use. Furthermore, contaminated water can have negative impacts on the environment.

The sediments and organisms that live in wetlands can trap, break down or absorb up to 92 per cent of phosphorus and 95 per cent of nitrogen passing through them. Wetlands can also trap up to 70 per cent of sediments found in runoff and lessen the impact of erosion. By providing alternative or remote water stations for livestock, properly storing manure

and chemicals and using permanent or portable bridges to cross waterways, you can reduce surface and



groundwater contamination.

For further information please contact:

Nic McLellan
DUC Atlantic
Toll Free: 1-866-903-8257
Tel. (902) 667-8726 ext. 232
E-mail: n_mclellan@ducks.ca

Research Projects and Priorities

Submitted by Mike Melanson and Gavin Graham

A number of research trials are being conducted by the NB Department of Agriculture and Aquaculture. Seventeen weed trials, two entomology trials, a disease trial and one fertility trial are underway or recently completed. Bleuets NB Blueberries recognizes the importance of research activities in wild blueberry production systems and is working with the Department to review research priorities. In the past, results of research and demonstration trials were presented at various meetings and published in the Adaptive Research Report. Over the years, growers have been very cooperative in identifying

suitable sites and working with staff to comply with research protocols. This cooperation allows researchers to continue to conduct research and demonstration activities to advance the wild blueberry production system and remain competitive in the global market. Below is a list of research projects undertaken by Department staff, with collaboration from growers, and identified as priorities by BNBB.

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Weed Trials

Spartan trials

- 2004-2006: Control of bunchberry using Spartan after hand harvest (Northeast)
- 2004-2006: Control of bunchberry using Spartan after Mechanical harvest (Northeast)
- 2005-2007: Control of bunchberry using Spartan after hand harvest (Southwest)
- 2005-2007: Control of bunchberry using Spartan after Mechanical harvest (Southwest)

Fall herbicide

- 2004-2006: Fall herbicide screening and pruning method (Northeast)
- 2006-2008: Fall herbicides and spring Velpar for lambkill and rhodora control (Northeast)
- 2006-2008: Screening of Group 4 products in tank mixes with 2,4-D for fall weed control (Northeast)

Fertility and lambs quarters

- 2006-2007: Nitrogen fertility effect on lambs quarters (Northeast)
- 2007-2008: Nitrogen fertility and mesotrione effect on lambs quarters populations (Northeast)

Grass control

- 2006-2007: Sprout year grass herbicide options (Southwest)
- 2007: Control of ticklegrass in the spring of the crop year (Southwest)

Sheep sorrel

- 2006-2008: Screening of herbicide options for sheep sorrel control after blueberry pruning (Southeast)
- 2007-2008: Control of sheep sorrel in the spring of the sprout year (Southeast)
- 2007-13: Control of sheep sorrel in the spring of the crop year (Southeast)

Product screening

- 2006-2007: Sprout year lambs quarters herbicide screening (Northeast)
- 2006-2007: Screening of herbicides applied in the fall (Northeast)
- 2007-2008: Evaluation of new herbicide candidates for use in sprout year blueberries (Northeast)

Entomology Trials

- 2007-ongoing: Monitoring the tip midge damage and control (Southwest)
- 2007-ongoing: Development of a model of blueberry flea beetle (Provincially)

Fertility Trial

- 2006-2007: Nutrient Assessment and Efficiency in the Wild Blueberry Production System (Northeast)

Disease Trial

- 2007-ongoing: Evaluating Application Rates of Bravo in Leaf Disease Trials (Southwest)

The editors would like to thank all those who contributed to this newsletter: Gary Brown, Crop Protection & Advisory Committee, CHC; John Cameron, President, Canadian Wild Blueberry Industry Research & Development Institute; Anne Fowlie, Executive Vice President, Canadian Horticultural Council; Gavin Graham, IPM Weed Specialist, NBDAA; Kelvin Lynch, IPM Specialist, NBDAA; Michel Melanson, Crop Development Specialist, NBDAA; Dave Sangster, Executive Director, Wild Blueberry Producers Association of Nova Scotia; Richard Taylor, Chair, BNBB Pollination Committee; Neri Vautour, Executive Director, WBANA.



Bleuets **NB** Blueberries

Leaf Disease Trials in Charlotte County 2007 Finds burning effective control for flea beetle

Submitted by Kelvin Lynch

A leaf disease trial to look at both rates of Bravo and number of sprays was carried out in Charlotte County looking at 7.2, 5.0 and 2.8 liters per hectare applied one, two or three times throughout the summer. In addition, the field was prepared with adjacent blocks of 'mowed only' or 'mowed and burned' and the entire trial was duplicated in each area to compare the effect of burning on leaf diseases.

Some powdery mildew was obvious after mid August but overall disease levels were very low in this field until mid October. No differences were observed in the level of disease between the mowed and burned trials. The severity of leaf diseases was decreased by both increasing the rate of Bravo applied and by increasing the number of sprays (see table). A single early spray at 7.2 L/ha gave equivalent control to two sprays of 5.0 L/ha.

Since significant levels of disease did not develop until October yield

Litres Bravo 500 per Hectare	Spray Dates	Percent Control
2.8	21 June	29
	21 June & 23 July	34
	21 June & 23 July & 23 August	38
5.0	21 June	39
	21 June & 23 July	49
	21 June & 23 July & 23 August	54
7.2	21 June	51
	21 June & 23 July	56
	21 June & 23 July & 23 August	59

increases resulting from Bravo sprays will be minimal in this trial. As we move forward with leaf disease management in blueberry fields we will have to continue to work at ways to identify those fields which require protection and those that do not.

As the sprouts emerged in these trials it was clear that the field had a serious flea beetle infestation. The

'mowed only' area was severely damaged by flea beetle feeding, but feeding damage in the 'mowed and burned' areas was completely eliminated demonstrating that burning is an excellent tool for blueberry flea beetle management.

This trial should be repeated next year as disease severity fluctuates from year to year and field to field.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Northeast Region

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Russell Weir 847-8033

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➤ Chair, Board of Directors

Producers are invited to call their local board members with any ideas, questions, and comments they may have concerning the agency **Bleuets NB Blueberries**, upcoming activities, and the work of the board. Please remember that at the annual regional meetings one board member will be elected in each region for a three year term. We please ask producers to consider serving for a term on the board. If you would like more details please call the office at (506) 459-2583 or toll free at 1-866-840-2583.

Office Hours

The hours of operation for the office located at 1350 Regent Street in Room 247 of the Hugh John Flemming Forestry Centre are: Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 to 4:30. Producers are invited to stop by the office when they are in Fredericton.



Bleuets **NB** Blueberries