

NOURSE

www.NourseFarms.com

PROFESSIONAL GROWERS NEWSLETTER

Volume XVIII – Fall 2007

Greetings from Nourse Farms

We are proud to be celebrating 75 years of being in the berry plant business. At the same time, we want to recognize our loyal customers, who have stayed with us year after year. We couldn't have accomplished this without you!

Maintaining your trust in our product is a commitment every one of our employees has taken very seriously and it shows by their hard work. Nourse Farms employees see that our plants get the expert maintenance and care they need seven days a week.

Seventy-five years have brought tremendous change - changes in the plant production process, new technologies that produce healthier plants, and changes in growers' production and marketing efforts. Nourse Farms has embraced these changes in an effort to provide the best plants available. Our newest efforts include RNA and DNA extraction combined with PCR testing. These techniques are the latest technology used to finger print plants for trueness to type and to detect virus and other diseases. This commitment to continually improve is bound to provide our customers with the best opportunity for success.

Opportunities with berries are unlimited. Their popularity in the local market place will surely continue to grow, because they are highly nutritious and great tasting. This has led to increased profitability and sustainability for our customers.

The future looks berry bright.

Thank you for your loyal support and all the best for a great season in 2008.



Nate Nourse, Sales Director

CANE BLIGHT Identified On CURRANTS

TIM NOURSE

This disease from the past has re-occurred with the increased number of currant plantings in eastern New York (Hudson Valley region). With continued investigation, the symptoms were also identified at the State Experiment Station in Geneva, NY. The symptoms are sudden wilt and blight of the canes of red currants. Studies conducted by Steve McKay and Prof. Kerik Cox suggests that this disease is *Botryosphaeria ribis*. Presently Dr. Cox is attempting to positively identify the disease by DNA sequencing. However, past experience indicates that the symptoms are a result of that fungus. I have discussed the currant damage with several of our NY customers, and sense that it will continue to reduce production and kill plantings unless managed.

The following is a brief discussion:

Symptoms:

1. Shoots, entire canes, and whole plants suddenly wilt and die from spring to late summer.
2. Young canes often become infected at the shoot tips and ultimately begin to die.

(Cont'd. on Pg. 2)

2007 – 2008 Trade Shows

Dec. 4 – 6: Great Lakes Fruit, Veg. & Farm Market Expo, Grand Rapids, MI
www.glexpo.com

Dec. 11 – 13: New England Vegetable & Fruit Conference, Manchester, NH
www.nevbc.org

Jan. 7–8: Kentucky Fruit & Vegetable Conference & Tradeshow, Lexington, Kentucky (859) 257-2909

Jan. 14 – 16: Ohio Produce Growers & Marketers Assoc. Congress, Sandusky, OH
www.ohiovegetables.org

Jan. 24 – 25: Iowa Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association Meetings, Marshalltown, IA (515) 465-5992

Jan. 29 – 31: Mid-Atlantic Fruit & Veg. Convention, in cooperation with NASGA & NABGA Conference, Hershey, PA
www.nasga.org,
www.raspberrylblackberry.com

Feb. 13 – 14: Empire State Fruit & Vegetable Expo, Syracuse, NY
www.nysaes.cornell.edu/hort/expo

Feb. 18 – 20: No. American Farmers' Direct Mktg. Assoc. in cooperation with WI Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Conf., Wisconsin Dells, WI
www.nafdma.com/wisconsin/

March 3 – 7: International Strawberry Symposium, Huelva, Spain
www.iss2008spain.com



To Order: Phone (413) 665-2658 • Fax (413) 665-7888 • M – F, 8 am – 5 pm, E.S.T. • Email: info@noursefarms.com

Visit us on the World Wide Web: www.noursefarms.com

STRAWBERRY HERBICIDE USE RELATED TO DORMANCY

TIM NOURSE

Every year we receive many inquiries regarding plant dormancy relative to application time of herbicides. This is an important question because growers do not want to damage their plants, but they want to receive the best weed control.

Dormancy is the important indicator. Hours of dormancy are accumulated when the temperatures are between 45° and 32° F. Keeping track of the number of hours in that temperature range will give you the hours of chill. A good level of dormancy occurs after accumulation of 400 hours of chill.

Cornell University specialists use the number of frosts to determine dormancy. Three or four killing frosts occurring over a sustained period of time results in plants achieving dormancy.

Dormancy is a less critical consideration when you are applying STINGER or SINBAR. Dr. Doug Doohan, Weed Specialist at Ohio State indicates that the most

important criteria for applying these herbicides depends on the stage of weed growth. STINGER, mainly for perennial weeds, should be applied when they are actively growing. Excellent thistle control has been obtained with October and early November treatments.

SINBAR should be used in early fall before winter annuals and perennial seedlings emerge or no later than when they are in the cotyledon growth stage.

Dr. Doohan says that yields will not be affected when recommended rates of SINBAR and STINGER are used to control weeds with applications made between mid September and early November.

Therefore, if you were planning to apply SINBAR, applications should have already been made. Later applications will be less effective in killing established winter annual and perennial weeds. However, an application of SINBAR in late autumn, just before mulching, will provide residual control of germinating annuals in

the spring.

On the other hand, Dr. Doohan says that good dormancy levels are very important when applying 2,4-D (Formula 40), SPARTAN, GOAL or CHATEAU. Complete dormancy is critical when applying CHATEAU. Good dormancy levels are achieved after accumulating 400 hours of chill.

MOST IMPORTANT – Do not apply any of these herbicides on FROZEN ground or damage will result.

CAUTION: Please check with your State Recommendations to be sure the herbicide has a label for your state.

Perennial Grass Control -

If you have perennial grasses growing in your strawberry plantings, an application of POAST or SELECT herbicides should be made immediately while the grass is in a good growing condition. If you still have grass in the spring, a second follow up application can be made when the growth is 4 to 6 inches or taller.

**Receive this newsletter two weeks earlier!!!
Send us your e-mail address**

We are here to answer your questions

Feel free to contact us via e-mail:

Tim Nourse – tnourse@noursefarms.com
Nate Nourse – nnourse@noursefarms.com
Vickie Barlow – vbarlow@noursefarms.com

Order early for best selection!

CANE BLIGHT Identified on CURRANTS (Cont'd. from Pg. 1)

Management:

1. Sanitation is critical. Sanitize your pruning tools when moving between infected and unaffected plants.
2. Postpone winter pruning until May when infected and dead shoots are more readily distinguishable.
3. Scout frequently during the season and remove infected canes and shoots 6" below the affected tissue.
4. Remove and burn all prunings to destroy the inoculum. Inoculum can travel great distances if left intact.

Chemical control:

1. Although the disease has not been positively identified, it is suggested that this fungus will be controlled by lime sulfur or fixed copper sprays applied to the dormant plants.
2. Although not confirmed, New Zealand growers are using a fungicide called Amistar to control the disease, making applications immediately after harvest. This fungicide reduces the disease and promotes green leaf retention and in turn increased bud size.
3. Although we do not have Amistar in the U.S., Abound (Syngenta Crop Protection) is analogous in formulation and concentration and is labeled in most states for currants. The label states a 6–15 ounce per acre rate. Refer to your state's recommendations for more detail.

Conclusion:

This article is meant only to be a brief discussion of this problem. If you have experienced this disease in your plantings, you need to read the detailed article that appeared in the N.Y. Fruit Growers Newsletter. You can contact Nourse Farms or Steve McKay at the State Extension Service in Hudson, N.Y., for a complete copy.

2008 Commercial Growers Price List

STRAWBERRIES	500	1000	5M/1M	25M/1M	
Unpatented Strawberry					
Allstar, Annapolis, Chandler, Earliglow, Honeoye Jewel, Northeaster, Ovation, Raritan, Sparkle	\$ 77.00	\$104.00	\$ 98.00	\$ 91.00	
Patented* Strawberry					
*Brunswick, *Cavendish, *Idea, *Mesabi, *Seneca, *Winona	\$ 82.00	\$114.00	\$108.00	\$101.00	
*Cabot, *Darselect, *Evangeline	\$ 89.00	\$119.00	\$113.00	\$106.00	
*Clancy, *Eros, *Itasca, *L'Amour, *AC Wendy	\$ 92.70	\$124.00	\$118.00	\$111.00	
Dayneutral					
*Seascape	\$ 82.00	\$114.00	\$108.00	\$101.00	
*Evie 2 & Tribute	\$118.00	\$158.00	\$152.00	N/A	
Pricing is per variety unless: Total combined order is between 15,000 and 24,999 plants, use 5M pricing; Total order at or over 25,000 plants, use 25M price					
BRAMBLES	100	500	1000		
Unpatented Bare-Root Varieties					
Boyne, Heritage, Killarney, Latham, Nova, Taylor		\$123.60	\$465.00	\$675.00	
Patented Bare-Root Varieties					
*Anne, *Autumn Britten, *Caroline, *Encore, *Jaclyn, *Kiwigold, *Lauren, *Moutere, *Polana, *Prelude		\$131.00	\$490.00	\$715.00	
*Himbo-Top, *Joan-J & *Polka		\$142.00	\$527.00	\$775.00	
Unpatented Nursery-Mature or Tissue Culture Varieties					
Bristol, Jewel, MacBlack, Chester, Triple Crown, Titan, Royalty		\$273.50	\$1018.00	\$1850.00	
Patented* Nursery-Mature or Tissue Culture Varieties					
*Illini Hardy, *Kiowa, *Ouachita		\$283.50	\$1068.00	\$1950.00	
ASPARAGUS -AVAILABLE AS 1 YEAR OLD CROWNS	300	600	1000	8M/1M	
Jersey Knight, Jersey Supreme, Millennium, Purple Passion	\$98.00	\$145.20	\$174.00	\$164.00	
BLUEBERRIES	11-49	50-99	100-249	250 - 500	501-1M
Bluecrop, Bluegold, Blueray, Chandler, Darrow, Duke, Elliott, Jersey, Northland, Patriot	\$6.95 ea.	\$6.40 ea.	\$5.75 ea.	\$5.30ea.	\$4.90 ea.
*Aurora, *Draper, *Liberty (12-18")	\$7.35 ea.	\$6.85 ea.	\$6.15 ea.	N/A	N/A
*Reka	\$7.35 ea.	\$6.85 ea.	\$6.15 ea.	\$5.90 ea.	\$5.30 ea.
RHUBARB	50	100	400		
Macdonald	\$200.00	\$352.00	\$1100.00		
Tilden	\$222.00	\$385.00	\$1210.00		
HORSERADISH	10	100	500	1000	
Big Top	\$16.00	\$132.00	\$605.00	\$1100.00	
CURRANTS/GOOSEBERRIES	25-99	100 +	250 +	500 +	
Ben Sarek, Blanka, Hinnomaki Red, Invicta, Jonkheer Van Tets, Pink Champagne, Rovada	\$5.95 ea.	\$5.30 ea.	\$4.40 ea.	\$3.80 ea.	
*Tixia & *Titania	\$7.15 ea.	\$6.35 ea.	\$5.28 ea.	\$4.56 ea.	
ELDERBERRIES	25-99	100-499	500+		
Samdal	\$6.40/ea.	\$6.00/ea.	\$5.40/ea.		

* Patented Varieties, Prices Include Royalties

Varieties Cannot Be Combined For Quantity Discounts (Except Strawberries)

TO QUALIFY FOR EARLY PAY DISCOUNT, YOUR ORDER TOTAL MUST BE \$500.00 OR OVER. (NORMAL PRICES WILL APPLY FOR LESSER ORDERS.)
IF PAID IN FULL BY 12/1/2007 - TAKE 3% DISCOUNT, IF PAID IN FULL BY 1/15/2008 - TAKE 2% DISCOUNT

ORDERING: Prices valid to July 1, 2008. Use enclosed order form or call. Order early to ensure your first choice and on-time shipping. We make every effort to ship on time. Plants are not available for fall planting.

PATENTED VARIETIES: Patented varieties are protected by US Patent Laws. Can not be propagated without permission.. Royalty fees are included in the prices.

PLANT PICKUP: Orders can be picked up in Whatley, MA. April 15-June 1.Mon-Sat. 8AM to 5PM or by arrangement. Commercial orders specify day and time for pickup. 3 business days notice required for orders with "open" pickup dates.

SHIPPING Handling & shipping charges are extra. Shipping by UPS unless otherwise specified. 3 business days' notice required for orders with "open" ship dates.

ORDERS TO MIDWEST OR WEST COAST
Shipped on a Monday or Tuesday. On warm temperature days, shipping is by 3 day UPS to assure good condition. Additional shipping charges are billed.

CANADIAN & FOREIGN ORDERS

Import permits must be supplied 30 days in advance of shipment. All shipping by special arrangement. Nourse must receive payment in full with US Funds prior to shipment. Add \$25.00 for Export Certification by US Dept of Agriculture. Extra fees for document preparation may be added. Payment by credit card or bank transfer minimizes your bank fees.

PAYMENT
Use check, money order or credit card in US Dollars. Credit card payments: check correct account number, expiration date and sign order form. We do not refund amounts less than \$4.00. On receipt of order acknowledgement, a deposit is required. First-time customers must pay in full before shipping. Orders under \$250.00 must be paid in full. Orders over \$250.00: a 1/3 deposit is required, balance due prior to shipping. Service charge of 1.5% per month charged on past-due accounts.

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Strawberry Professionals

- Learn New Skills
- Discover New Equipment & Methods
- Visit with Peers
- Benefit from the Latest Research
- Grow More & Better Berries
- Develop New Networks
- Sell More & Grow Your Profit!

Join the *North American* *Strawberry Growers* *Association Today!*



Join or renew your NASGA Membership by December 31, and receive one **FREE** registration for the **2008 Annual Conference**.

The conference will be held in Hershey, Pennsylvania in conjunction with the **Mid Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention**, and the **National American Bramble Growers meeting**, on January 29-31, 2008.



NASGA membership includes more than 500 members representing 40 states, 10 Canadian Provinces, and 15 countries.

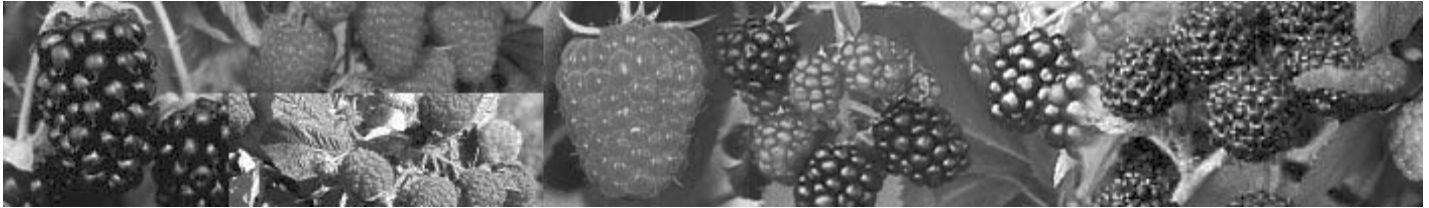
Our purpose is to work together to strengthen and improve strawberry production and sales.

25% of all membership dues go directly to the support of strawberry research.

www.nasga.org



For more information, contact Kevin Schooley, Executive Director, info@nasga.org
30 Harmony Way, Kemptville, Ontario K0G 1J0, phone 613-258-4587, FAX 613-258-9129



The North American Bramble Growers Association

The North American Bramble Growers Association is an independent, continent-wide organization dedicated to the advancement of the raspberry and blackberry industry. Members include growers, nursery operators, marketers, processors, researchers, breeders, extension, suppliers, and state and regional affiliate organizations. Join us!

What does NABGA do?

- Informs members about research, production methods, and marketing practices.
- Funds bramble research through the NABG Research Foundation.
- Holds an annual educational conference.
- Monitors national trends and issues.
- Speaks at the national and regional level for the bramble industry.
- Supports regional bramble meetings and tours.
- Supports and encourages local, state, and regional berry organizations.

Benefits of membership include:

- *The Bramble*, NABGA's quarterly newsletter
- Proceedings of the annual conference
- Discount subscriptions to small fruit publications
- Links to your website on the NABGA website
- An annual membership directory
- Support and information from the NABGA network of growers and researchers
- Access to special resources in the "Members Only" section of the NABGA website, such as recipe cards and consumer handouts and a Members Only E-Forum.

A first-year introductory membership is only \$50 plus \$5/acre of bramble production for growers and \$40 for researchers and extension. Visit our website, with resources for both growers and consumers, at www.raspberrylblackberry.com. To receive a sample newsletter and membership application, contact:

NABGA

1138 Rock Rest Road, Pittsboro, NC 27312

Phone: 919-542-3687

Fax: 919-542-4037

E-mail: nabga@mindspring.com

Website: www.raspberrylblackberry.com

**ATTENTION GROWERS –
JOIN A NATIONAL FRUIT ORGANIZATION!**

NATE NOURSE

As members of the North American Strawberry and North American Bramble Growers Associations, we are asking our growers to please consider joining one or both organizations. These organizations are providing two important functions for growers. First, NASGA and NABGA have put together very informative grower meetings. This will be evident again next year in Hershey, Pennsylvania where three days of educational programs are being organized. These programs will be presented by our country's best Extension personnel and Professional Farmers. The second benefit of belonging to NASGA and NABGA is their research efforts. Both organizations have contributed to and facilitated towards research efforts that are in every growers' best interest.

Continued effort by these Organizations thru the National Berry Crop Initiative has supported efforts towards Farm Bill and Ag Jobs legislation. These legislative efforts towards Extension research revival and labor policies will affect us all for many years. Joining these organizations efforts couldn't come at a more important time.

To find out more information on these organizations, please review the included insert in this newsletter.



**PRUNING PRELUDE RED
RASPBERRIES FOR BEST RESULTS**

TIM NOURSE

In our 2006 Spring newsletter, we discussed the pruning management of Prelude for the best results. Because of the increase in popularity of Prelude, we are repeating the discussion on pruning Prelude for the best yields for the summer crop.

During the winter or early spring, prune the canes back to about chest height (about 4 ½ feet). This pruning will cause multiple fruiting laterals or additional cane development from the top auxiliary buds.

This pruning also removes the primocane wood that produced fruit the fall before and initiates cane branching that results in increased fruit production for the coming summer crop.

Please contact us for further information

TITANIA BLACK CURRANT

(U.S. Plant Patent #11,439)

We will be offering this variety again in 2008.

- * **Available to commercial growers only
(Order must consist of 100 plants or more)**
- * **Most productive black currant**
- * **Immune to White Pine Blister Rust
Disease**

This variety cannot be shipped to MA customers



BLUEBERRY AVAILABILITY

Blueberries have become very popular over the past few years. Due to high demand this year, we are sold out of Chandler, Elliott and Jersey. We still have good supplies available of all other varieties. If you are planning to plant this coming spring, we would recommend that you contact us soon for best variety selection.



CHATEAU UPDATE - A new herbicide labeled for strawberry production.

TIM NOURSE

In our spring newsletter we discussed this new herbicide that controls a wide range of difficult weeds in strawberry production. CHATEAU now has a label for most states. Fall application is the safest time to use this product, making application after the plants have gone into full dormancy.

Some important points:

1. For fall application after plants are dormant, the label suggests adding crop oil or a non-ionic surfactant. This addition will assist in killing emerged broadleaf weeds such as field pansy.
2. If your strawberry field is clean of emerged weeds, it is not necessary to add the surfactant.
3. The fall application of CHATEAU will give control through the harvest period.
4. **IMPORTANT:** Do not apply CHATEAU when the ground is frozen.
5. Do not use more than 3 ounces per year.
6. For more information, contact the Valent web site: www.valent.com or your local specialist.



NEW VARIETIES FOR 2008

Primocane Red Raspberry:

Himbo Top™ “RAFZAQU Variety”

(U.S. Plant Patent Pending)

- Highly Productive
- Small, well constructed drupelets
- Produces large, bright red fruit (doesn't darken)
- Similar fruiting season as Caroline
- Highly vigorous
- Conic shaped
- Autumn Bliss hybrid
- Released from Switzerland

Asparagus:

Millennium

Millennium, all male asparagus, has established itself as a very high yielding, high quality hybrid. Developed by Prof. David Wolyn, University of Guelph, Canada, this variety has become a major contributor to the Ontario asparagus industry, accounting for 70% of all seed sold in Ontario.

Millennium was named “Seed of the Year” in 2005 at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. Millennium is also performing very well in the Michigan industry where it is out yielding all the Jersey Hybrids in their medium to heavy soil conditions.

We are pleased to offer this very high yielding hybrid and recommend it to be trialed under your conditions to assess its performance.

VARIETY UPDATE

Strawberry:

AC Wendy (U.S. Plant Patent Pending) -

We have received many positive reports on Wendy. Growers have seen excellent growth and vigor. We have had mixed reports on foliar disease resistance, but there are too many variables in this equation to have a definite answer. Initial reports are suggesting that Wendy's early fruit production, berry size and great flavor will satisfy most growers. Our biggest concern is Wendy's susceptibility to frost or freeze damage. This variety could produce flowers 5-7 days earlier than most other early varieties and growers will need to be ready with frost protection measures. Plant availability is somewhat limited, therefore, we recommend reserving this variety early.

Primocane Red Raspberry:

Joan J (U.S. Plant Patent Pending) -

We have seen this very high producing variety perform well in our fields, as well as many of our growers. It is a very vigorous variety. Consequently, growers will want to apply lower rates of nitrogen. Excessive nitrogen will produce soft fruit and excessive growth. This vigor is going to change the way you trellis and prune. Our normal trellis height is 36"-40". With Joan J we suggest adding a second support at 46"-48". We would also recommend some thinning prior to trellis installation. There is no doubt that a little extra effort will yield great results. Limited quantities available.

NOURSE

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******Early Pay Discount******

(Orders over \$500, paid in full by:)

December 1st, 2007 3%

January 15th, 2008 2%

In This Issue:

- *Cane Blight on Currants*
- *Strawberry Herbicide Use*
- *New Varieties for 2008*