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**NOURSE**

news

## Greetings from Whately—

**Enormous Challenges in 2020.** This is an understatement for me. The normal everyday challenges that growers face were small compared to the effects of COVID-19! However, as growers always do, we adjust and move forward. Along with the downside, there were opportunities that growers took advantage of: people reacted very positively to the pick-your-own season in 2020. Some customers acknowledged it was the best season ever! Growers with retail and farmers markets had excellent response from their customers, as well. Throughout the season we experienced high demand for all berry crops. Overall, we feel we were blessed with the opportunities presented to us.

**Weather and Labor Challenges.** We experience these challenges every year and have no expectation this will change. It takes extensive planning to keep a good labor team and to manage around weather events. But growers do that! We experienced two extended dry periods this season, both of which were tests for our irrigation crew. We missed having occasional moist periods to provide relief to the plants. Yet we are fortunate to have a great crop of plants to offer you for the 2021 season!

**We Are Now Growing Strawberry Plug Plants.** We grew our first round of plug plants in 2020, and the response from growers was positive. Looking forward to 2021, we are planning to increase production. We are still finalizing our plans: we hope to produce Galletta, Darsalect, Flavorfest, and AC Valley Sunset plugs for 2021. We will provide more details on our plug production for 2021 in our Spring Newsletter. So stay tuned!

**My Outlook for 2021.** I feel there will be continued demand for all berry crops, and continued influence from the COVID-19 pandemic as we experienced in 2020. I also believe there will be high demand for all berry plants for the coming year — *so I recommend that upon reviewing this Fall Newsletter, you place your order so you are protected on the varieties important to your program.* Our Sales Team is here to provide the service you deserve.

All of us here at Nourse Farms thank you for all your past business and we look forward to serving you in the coming season, and to assisting you with the challenges you may face in the New Year!

My Special Thanks,

*Tim Nourse*

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**QUESTIONS?  
FEEL FREE TO E-MAIL US:**  
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variety  
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# Blackberry Production - the Ins and Outs

**Blackberries—both floricanes and primocane varieties—are increasing in popularity. The timing of both crops coincides nicely with other small fruit crops whether for U-Pick, roadside stands, or wholesale production.**

Below we focus on the basics of blackberry production. Please contact our office for more advanced recommendations.

## Site Preparation

Preparations for blackberry plantings should begin at least one year in advance. We advise taking soil samples to get a read on your pH, percent organic matter and overall fertility to make any necessary changes. We recommend a pH in the 6.5–6.8 range with a minimum of 2–3% organic matter.

A nutritionally healthy planting in a well-drained soil with exposure to air movement is less susceptible to damage from pests and frosts. Blackberries are marginally winter hardy, so choose the location carefully. Blackberries require good internal soil drainage to grow and will perform best in a well-drained sandy loam. Wet soils restrict root growth and respiration, resulting in weak growth and reduced yields. Planting into raised beds is highly recommended to improve soil drainage in the rooting zone, particularly on heavier soils. Selecting a site with a gentle slope (3–4%) and good air drainage will also promote faster drying of foliage, flowers and fruit which will reduce the duration and frequency of disease infection periods. Recommended plant spacing is 3–4 feet in the row and 10–12 feet between rows.

Drip irrigation is an essential component to successful blackberry production. Plants generally require 1–2 inches of water per week in the growing season and 2–3 inches per week during harvest. We suggest having your local irrigation sales company review your field layout for the best recommendations for your situation.

## Choosing a variety

Picking the appropriate varieties for your operation is one of the most important decisions a grower can make. In northern areas, winter-hardiness is a key factor in choosing a variety. As a guideline, most varieties are winter-hardy to 10 degrees.

### FLORICANE/SUMMER BEARING THORNLESS VARIETIES NATCHEZ

Earliest ripening thornless variety with very high production of very large, flavorful berries. As it is semi-erect, it will

perform best with a trellis. Zones 5–9.

#### SWEET-ARK™ CV. 'PONCA'

Based on breeder information, one of the sweetest and most flavorful berries with good yield potential and excellent post-harvest fruit quality. Ripens shortly after Natchez, but before Caddo, meeting an important early ripening window. *Full description on next page.* Zones 6–9.

#### CADDO

Early results show Caddo ripening between Natchez and Osage with comparable yields to Osage and Ouachita. *Full description on next page.* Zones 5–9.

#### OSAGE

Consistently among the best tasting Arkansas varieties. Berry size is medium; vigorous plants may require less nitrogen than other varieties. Its early ripening makes it susceptible to spring frost. Zones 6–9.

#### OUACHITA

A standard in the industry. A thornless variety with excellent fruit quality with firm, sweet, attractive berries. Ripens before Navaho. Plants are very erect with moderate vigor but lack of winter hardiness does limit it to Mid-Atlantic, West Coast and South. Zones 6–9.

#### CHESTER

Considered one of the more winter-hardy and productive varieties for northern locations. One of the latest Floricane varieties, Chester produces large, high-quality fruit that ripens in early to mid-August. Optimum flavor when fruit is picked fully ripe and holds its quality and color through storage. Zones 5–9.

### PRIMOCANE/FALL BEARING BLACKBERRIES PRIME ARK® 45\*

*U.S. Plant Patent #22,449*

Prime-Ark 45 is a thorny, primocane-bearing blackberry with an erect growing habit. Primocane berries are medium size while floricanes are larger. Trials indicate variety is very productive and fruit holds up well after picking making it suitable for shipping. Can be treated as a floricanes variety as well with ripening time between Natchez and before Ouachita.

#### PRIME ARK® FREEDOM \*

With an upright growth habit and excellent fruit quality, Prime Ark Freedom is a variety to try for local commercial distribution. We recommend trialing this variety and experimenting with different tipping heights for maximum production.

## Planting & Fertilization

Destroy all wild brambles within 500 to 1,000 feet of your planting site. We recommend planting early in the spring when soil temperatures are in the 45–50 degree range.

Do not fertilize at planting. Sample your soil the previous year to determine nutritional needs. If needed, once plants are established, apply 20–35 pounds actual nitrogen per acre based on soil type. Higher levels of actual nitrogen may be recommended in subsequent years based on soil tests.

## Trellising & Pruning

We recommend all brambles, including blackberries, be supported by a trellis. A trellis keeps canes upright, keeps fruit off the ground, makes picking much easier, and maintains good aeration throughout the planting which helps with disease control.

Nourse Farms uses a rotating cross arm trellis in our florican blackberry production. This allows us to position canes close to the ground, where they can be covered with a thick row cover for winter protection, and allows us to grow blackberries in an area where winter temperatures are too cold.

## Tipping

Tipping is an important practice for maximizing yields on both Summer-Bearing (Florican-Bearing) and Primocane (Fall Bearing) Blackberries. On Florican varieties, tip first-year canes when they reach 5–6 feet in mid-summer. Tipping stops terminal growth and established fruiting laterals. Fruiting second-year canes should be cut to the ground as soon as possible after harvest.

Primocane blackberries respond very favorably to double tipping. As the primocanes reach 12–15 inches in height, break or cut the top of the tips. This process stimulates earlier fruit development, increases yield and also keeps plant height in check for easier management and harvest. Tip again at 30 inches.

## Pest Management

Good weed control during the first year is essential. Blackberry plants are sensitive to most herbicides during the first few months after planting. Research from Cornell has shown that applying a clean straw mulch (4 inches deep) to newly planted blackberry plants provides good weed control. On heavy soils mulch should be used only in the first year since straw mulch over a prolonged period can encourage the development of root rots. We do not recommend bark mulch or any other mulch material besides straw.

Like any crop, a variety of pests need to be managed to maximize yields, fruit quality, and extend the life of your planting. Based on grower experience, other than Spotted Wing Drosophila which impact later ripening summer and fall blackberries, growers should be concerned with:

- Phytophthora Root Rot
- Botrytis Fruit Rot (Grey Mold)
- Aphids
- Yellow (Late or Fall) Rust
- Mites

Please review our Spring 2018 and other past newsletters on our website or contact your local cooperative extension office for specifics on possible controls.

# VARIETY SPOTLIGHT

## 'SWEET-ARK™' cv. 'PONCA'

*U.S. Plant Patent applied for.  
Propagation prohibited by law.*

Looking for the perfect blackberry variety? This latest release from the premier blackberry breeder, Dr. John Clark, at University of Arkansas, might be it! One of the sweetest and most flavorful

blackberry varieties tried yet, it will appeal to commercial growers for its yield potential and post-harvest fruit quality. Ponca ripens shortly after Natchez and before Caddo; meeting an important early ripening window. In trials, plants have shown excellent cane health, with no unusual susceptibility to rusts nor anthracnose. Winter hardiness is comparable to Ouachita with very limited injury to a low of 1 degree F. Zones 6–9. **Supply is limited to trial quantities.**



## CADDO Blackberry

*U.S. Plant Patent to be applied for.*

Caddo is a recent release from a series of erect-growing, high quality, productive florican-fruiting blackberry cultivars intended for fresh market use by John Clark at the University of Arkansas. "It has overall high fruit quality, excellent postharvest fruit-handling potential, consistent high yields and excellent plant health," as indicated by Dr. Clark. Early results show Caddo ripening between Natchez and Osage with comparable yields to both Osage and Ouachita. Size has been larger than both Osage and Ouachita; holding size through the harvest season. We highly recommend that growers trial this new variety. Hardiness is anticipated in zones 5–9.



## MAPEMA® Raspberry

The fourth and earliest in a series of varieties from the Advanced Berry Breeding program in The Netherlands, Mapema® is an early fruiting and easy to grow primocane with a high yield. Ripening time is similar to Polka. This variety produces large, conical fruit with a beautiful, deep color. The berries are excellent quality and easy to pick. Our trial results have shown Mapema® to be the earliest fruiting of the ABB varieties with superb quality and flavor. As with the other ABB varieties, special licensing requirements include a 200 plant minimum. Please call us for pricing and details on placing an order. Zones 5–9.







# Brookdale Farm Supplies



Bio360 a Biodegradable and Compostable Black Mulch Film is made of Mater-Bi, a bio-based plastic that is completely compostable according to BPI standards. This biodegradable mulch has the same mechanical and physical characteristics as plastic mulch without the negative impact on the environment. Bio360 breaks down over time with organic matter in the soil. Bio360 is the ideal biodegradable mulch for strawberries. First year establishment on a matted row system a 0.6 mil Bio360 film greatly reduces weeding cost and still allows plant runners to set through the plastic. In an everbearing systems a 1 mil Bio360 film is ideal for multiyear use.



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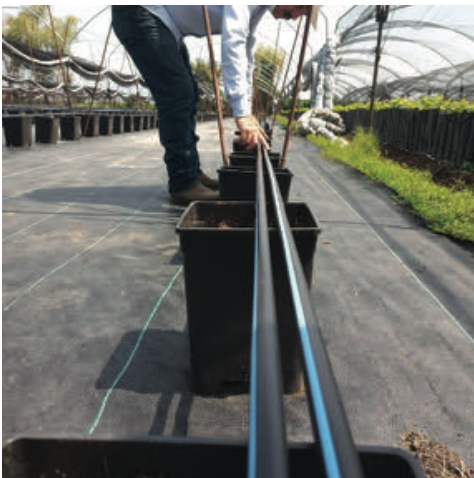
**COMPOSTABLE**  
IN INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES

Check locally, as these do not exist in many communities. **Not suitable for backyard composting.** CERT # 10528850



## Ag Irrigation

Toro's BlueLine PC is a heavy wall drip tubing with pressure compensating integrated drippers that lasts 25 plus years. Designed for perennial crops such as blueberries, blackberries, and raspberries; BlueLine PC has an emitter built inside the tube which is placed every 12", 18", 24" or 36". The flow path technology in the PC dripper uses a shark tooth design providing a turbulent flow path that is independent from the wall of the tubing. That flow path, along with the self-flushing diaphragm allows for a dripper system that is very resistant to clogging. This produces a uniformly watered field for a long duration of time.




# Brookdale Farm Supplies

**38 Broad Street**

**Hollis, NH 03049**

**603-465-2240**

**[www.brookdalefruitfarm.com](http://www.brookdalefruitfarm.com)**

# Strawberry Production Systems - Matted Row versus Plasticulture

One of the most common questions we get—whether it is from first time, brand new strawberry growers or existing growers looking to expand their acreage—is on production systems. Should they go with the traditional, “tried and true” matted row system or consider plasticulture? When it comes down to it, the best system to choose is based on the unique needs of your specific operation. Based on our experience and fruit production here at Nourse Farms, we’ve outline the pros and cons of each system.

## MATTED ROW

### Pros:

- Long-established, successful, and profitable system that is widely planted throughout the northern U.S.
- Low initial investment costs. At a recommended spacing within the row of 18 inches and 40 inches between rows, plant density would be 8,800 plants per acre. No need for plastic and there is flexibility in irrigation systems.
- Pick-Your-Own operations have historically used the matted row system leading to strong customer acceptance.
- Proven adaptation to colder climates versus plasticulture.
- With good weed control, your planting could produce for up to five years.

### Cons:

- Weed control can be difficult, particularly in the establishment year, due to the lack of effective herbicides.
- Lower picking efficiency as fruit is not easily accessible compared to the plasticulture system.
- Yields can vary dramatically from 3,000–20,000 pounds per acre depending on management practices.



Please contact us at (413) 665-2658 if you would like to discuss these systems in more detail including variety recommendations for each.

## PLASTICULTURE

### Pros:

- Increased picking efficiency of at least 20% that lowers costs long term.
- Weed control is much simpler and is limited primarily to between the rows.
- Bigger berries with longer shelf life, particularly with the use of straw mulch.
- Higher consistent yields in the range of 16,000+ per acre.
- Controlled timing of fruiting.
- Vegetable growers with experience growing on plastic and with drip irrigation find the system easier to work with versus matted row.

### Cons:

- Higher upfront costs. In addition to plastic and drip irrigation, higher plant density of 18,000 plants per acre increases costs.
- Planting by hand is the only option. Machine planting has not been successful for growers.
- Trickier establishment due to planting in the heat of the summer.
- Late planting dates in June and July coincide with harvest times of strawberries as well as other crops.
- Three fruiting years versus up to five years with matted row.
- Winter injury risk may be higher given the height the plants sit at. Use of straw mulch for winter protection is a must in northern areas.





# FIVE POINTS TO PONDER

## Let's Start Planning for 2021!

# 1

### STRAWBERRIES AND PERSISTENT HERBICIDES

Knowing the field history of herbicide applications can be important when planning for the coming season's crop. Some herbicides are persistent in the soil and can affect sensitive crops 18, 24

and even 36 months out from the application. Knowing what product was used is critical and a 3 or 4 year history of applications is helpful, although not always possible to obtain.

Once the product used is known, it's critical to read the label or consult your Ag dealer or weed specialist to learn about any plant back restrictions.

Product labels can be found on the following links:  
<https://www.agrian.com/labelcenter/results.cfm>  
<http://www.cdms.net/LabelsSDS/home/>

Soil texture, soil pH, changing the pH (lime applications), rainfall, herbicide application rates, and spray overlap (effectively a 2X application rate) can all impact herbicide persistence.

Group 2 herbicides, (ALS inhibitor), commonly used in corn, soybean, and other crops, are generally a persistent herbicide group.

An example of a Group 2 herbicide used in our area is Sandea. The label lists a plant back time of 9 months for caneberries and 36 months for strawberries. For crops not listed, the plant back interval is 36 months.

Another Group 2 product (Python) lists a 26 month plant back for sugar beets and canola plus a field Bioassay. If the test crop is affected in any way; the recommendation is to hold off to the next growing season. This product has no listing for strawberry plant back but the possibility of carryover to a new strawberry planting exists. Without direction from the product label, it's best to be cautious and wait as long as 36 months.

Other herbicide groups beyond Group 2 will have residual characteristics. Many of these products will not have strawberries listed as a plant back crop so the maximum "other crops" plant back interval should be observed.

A chart listing herbicide groups can be found at this link:  
[https://ag.purdue.edu/btny/weedscience/Documents/52689\\_5\\_TA\\_HerbClassPoster\\_2016\\_Master\\_LR.pdf](https://ag.purdue.edu/btny/weedscience/Documents/52689_5_TA_HerbClassPoster_2016_Master_LR.pdf)

In addition, consult your local cooperative extension for state

specific recommendations and herbicide residue testing facilities.

### FACTORS IMPACTING BERRY SIZE AND FLAVOR

# 2

A key question we get from growers each year is how they can increase overall berry size and flavor. We believe these issues could be associated with:

- environmental conditions;
- nutrition; and/or
- soil type.

The majority of the time, flavor is affected by too much or not enough water and/or sunlight. Most growers recognize that flavor can be washed out by too much rain or irrigation, but many have recently learned that inadequate moisture and/or sunlight will reduce flavor. This issue is more noticeable in higher producing varieties that require more water. Examples include Darselect strawberry, and Caroline raspberry, which are larger and juicier if they receive adequate moisture.

This leads us to production issues. Before and during flower bud development, both overall plant health and adequate moisture are key components. After harvest is an important time to provide timely and adequate moisture. Also, disease and insect control to maintain highly efficient foliage, is very important and supported by research. The combination of these conditions will greatly influence flower bud production and subsequently fruit production the following season.

Providing good nutrients and moisture during the flower initiation period is key, as well as managing the crop through from flowering to harvest.

Research and growers' results also indicate that there are other environmental conditions that alone may seem insignificant, but together, they make an impact:

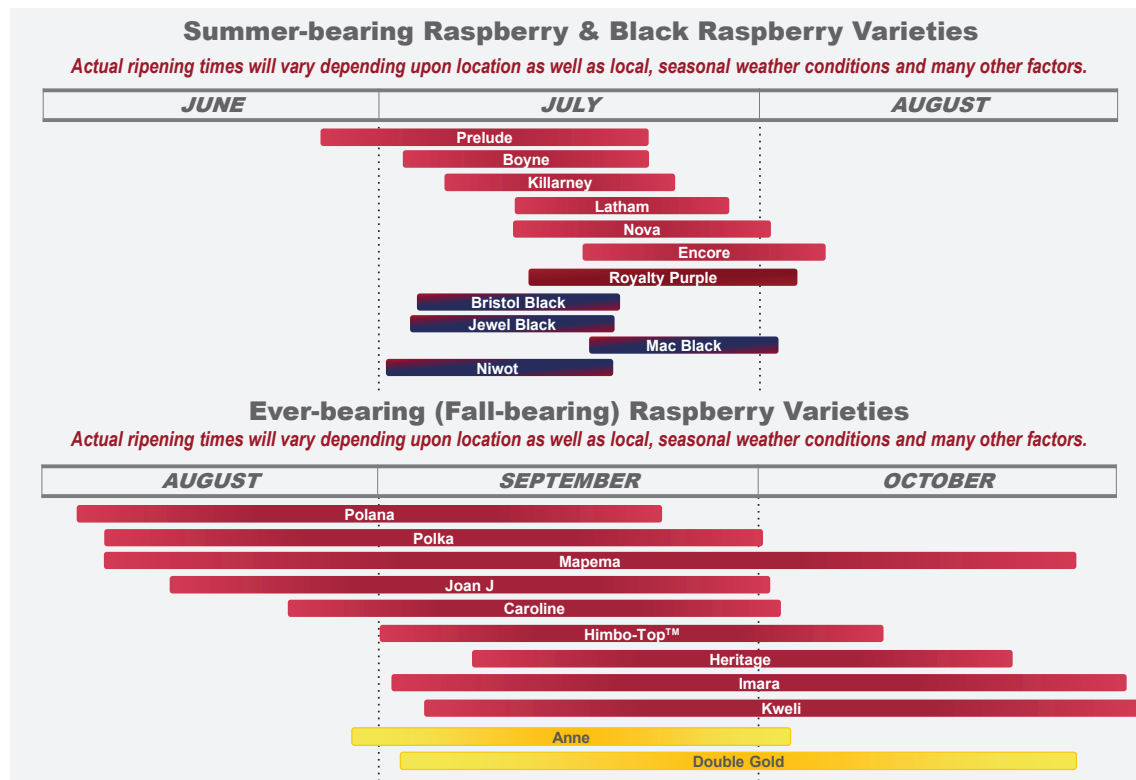
- Is your pH too high or too low?
- Are imbalances of micronutrients affecting health and production?

These seemingly minor factors will affect certain varieties more so than others, especially our most productive ones. If you add in factors of too much or too little water, and the effects of other management practices, combined with unfavorable conditions, flavor and size will be impacted.

## RASPBERRY RIPENING TIMES

3

In choosing which variety of raspberries to plant, ripening time is a key factor in most choices. The chart shown here outlines **estimated harvest dates at our location in Whately, Massachusetts**.



4

## CHOOSING THE BEST STRAWBERRY VARIETIES FOR YOUR OPERATION

One key suggestion we give growers is the importance of trialing a variety at their location before planting on a large scale. Variety performance is indicative of the conditions under which they are grown—a “dog” for another grower might be your “Blue Ribbon” variety. With over several dozen strawberry varieties available in the marketplace today, there are many options to consider.

### COMMON QUESTIONS WE ASK:

- **How do you plan to market the berries?** Wholesale growers require a large berry which is not only firm but will hold in refrigeration for a time. For many pick-your-own farms, flavor and fruit quality are top considerations. Some varieties, like Jewel, can meet both needs.
- **What are the field conditions?** A good disease resistance package is a priority for farms that have grown berries for many years with limited land for rotation or that have heavy, wet soil.

• **How long do you want to be picking berries?** Some growers want the longest season extension possible. In those cases, we not only recommend very early varieties like AC Wendy, a mid-season variety and then our very latest June-bearing variety Malwina (ripens in mid-late July in many areas). To extend it even further, day-neutral varieties, like Albion and Seascape can keep you picking strawberries in the late spring as well into the fall. On the flip side, there are operations that, due to the various crops they produce, prefer strawberries for a shorter window of time. In those cases, highly productive varieties like Galletta, Honeoye, and Jewel are options.

• **Where are you located?** In more northern locations (zones 3 & 4) with very cold winter temperatures, hardiness is a key priority. Annapolis, Cavendish, and Honeoye are varieties often considered. In southern locations, varieties that can withstand high temperatures, like AC Valley Sunset are necessary.

• **Are you growing on a matted row or plasticulture system?** Most varieties we sell should grow well in either system. AC Wendy, Galletta, Darselect, Flavorfest, and Cabot are varieties that have performed particularly well in the plasticulture system. In the matted row system, varieties that are vigorous and runner well are of interest, from a plant stand perspective, for filling out the row.

FIVE POINTS TO PONDER... continued on page 10

## Hillside Cultivator for Strawberry Weed Control throughout the Year

Weed control is probably the most difficult obstacle to successful strawberry production. In a matted row system a combination of effective mechanical tools will greatly reduce hand labor. The Hillside Cultivator incorporates several tools for the different stages of growth. Timing is always critical.



- **Rolling cultivator** gangs are part of the cultivator in all seasons and are excellent for uprooting weeds while not cultivating too deeply.
- **S-tines** mounted in the front position are used to move runners into the row. (pictured above)
- **Finger Weeder** attachment can be used all season for disrupting small weed growth along the row and close to plants. (pictured left)

- Through the late summer and into the fall, the width of the strawberry row can be controlled with the **rolling cultivators** and weeds between the row removed. These cultivations can remain shallow so that new weed seeds are not brought to the surface. Cultivation can also be done as an herbicide loses its effectiveness and prior to another low rate application.



- Following harvest and mowing the plants, the Hillside Cultivator is ideal for strawberry renovation. **Disk gangs** are mounted in the front position which are used to narrow the row and cut through the straw. A **coil tine** follows and fractures the soil which has been packed by foot traffic during harvest. The rolling cultivator in the rear rolls soil back toward the strawberry plants. Cultivating speed is 3-4 mph with two passes normal for each row. This machine is more economical and less disruptive of soil structure than a rototiller.



- The **Eco Weeder** is a PTO driven machine with rotating vertical teeth that are manually moved between and around young plants. An attachment is available for straw removal in the spring.



- The cultivator can be used for vegetables such as Pumpkins, Squash, Potatoes, and Cole Crops.
- The cultivator can be used to straddle a plastic bed.

**Hillside Cultivator Co. LLC**

911 Disston View Dr. Lititz, PA 17543

Cell 717-669-3158

[www.hillsidecultivator.com](http://www.hillsidecultivator.com)

Email: [sales@hillsidecultivator.com](mailto:sales@hillsidecultivator.com)



## 2021 COMMERCIAL GROWERS PRICE LIST

Strawberries	500+	1000+	5M+/1M	25M+/1M	
June Bearing Varieties					
Allstar, Earliglow, Honeoye, Jewel	\$91.00	\$145.00	\$136.00	\$128.00	
Annapolis, Sparkle, *Brunswick, Flavorfest	\$95.00	\$155.00	\$148.00	\$139.00	
Cavendish, *Darselect, *Galletta, All Exp. Var.	\$99.00	\$160.00	\$153.00	\$145.00	
*Cabot, *Clancy, *Dickens, *Mayflower, *Sonata, *Wendy, *Valley Sunset	\$101.00	\$167.00	\$158.00	\$150.00	
*Malwina®,* Yambu	\$112.00	\$178.00	\$170.00	\$162.00	
Everbearing Varieties (Dayneutrals)					
Seascape	\$101.00	\$167.00	\$158.00	\$150.00	
*Albion, *Evie 2, *Portola, *San Andreas	\$106.00	\$172.00	\$164.00	\$155.00	
Mara des Bois	\$128.00	\$225.00	\$216.00	\$207.00	
IMPORTANT! Pricing is per variety unless: total combined is between 15,00 and 24,999, use 5M pricing; total order at or over 25,000, use 25M price.					
Brambles		100+	500+	1000+	
Red & Yellow Raspberry Varieties					
Anne, Boyne, Caroline, Heritage, Killarney, Latham, Nova,		\$192.00	\$664.00	\$962.00	
*BP-1, *Encore, *Joan-J, *Himbo Top®, *Polana, *Polka, *Prelude		\$208.00	\$699.00	\$1,058.00	
*Double Gold, *Eden		\$238.00	\$874.00	\$1,382.00	
Black Raspberry and Blackberry Varieties					
Bristol, Jewel, Mac-Black, Chester, Triple Crown, Royalty		\$298.00	\$1,069.00	\$1,950.00	
*Natchez, *Ouachita		\$309.00	\$1,121.00	\$2,050.00	
*Niwot, *Caddo, *Ponca, Prime Ark® 45, Prime Ark® Freedom, All Exp. Var.		\$331.00	\$1,230.00	\$2,250.00	
Asparagus (Available as 1-Year-Old Crowns)	300+	600+	1000+	14M+/1M	
Purple Passion	\$149.00	\$220.00	\$265.00	\$250.00	
Millenium	\$169.00	\$252.00	\$301.00	\$287.00	
Mary Washington	\$118.00	\$174.00	\$209.00	\$199.00	
Blueberries	10+	50+	100+	250+	500+
Bluecrop, Bluegold, Bluearay, Chandler, Darrow, Duke, Elliott, Jersey, Northland, Patriot, Reka	\$8.00 ea.	\$7.50 ea.	\$6.75 ea.	\$6.25 ea.	\$5.75 ea.
*Blue Ribbon, *Top Shelf, *Last Call	\$8.75 ea.	\$8.25 ea.	\$7.50 ea.	\$7.00 ea.	\$6.50 ea.
Horseradish			100+	500+	1000+
Big Top			\$180.00	\$794.00	\$1,455.00
Currants/Gooseberries		25+	100+	250+	500+
All Varieties (except Tixia)		\$7.50 ea.	\$6.50 ea.	\$5.50 ea.	\$4.50 ea.
Tixia		\$9.00 ea.	\$8.00 ea.	\$6.50 ea.	\$5.50 ea.
Elderberries			25+	100-499	500+
Samdal, Samyl			\$7.00 ea.	\$6.50 ea.	\$5.90 ea.

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 12/01/20, take 3% discount. If paid in full by 01/15/21, take 2% discount.

Discount applies to plant total only, shipping cost based on total before discount.

**Varieties cannot be combined for quantity discounts (except strawberries, see above).**

\*Patented varieties. Prices include royalties.

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Pay Discount**

Orders over \$500,  
paid in full by:

Dec. 1, '20 save 3%  
Jan. 15, '21 save 2%

**Order early!**

#### WARRANTY:

NOURSE FARMS, INC. WARRANTS that the products it sells have been labeled as required by law and that they conform to the label descriptions. NOURSE FARMS, INC. MAKES NO OTHER WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR PURPOSE OR OTHERWISE. THE EXCLUSIVE REMEDY FOR LOSS OR DAMAGES DUE TO BREACH OF THE FOREGOING WARRANTY OR CONTRACT OR FOR NEGLIGENCE OR OTHER CAUSE SHALL BE LIMITED, AT THE OPTION OF NOURSE FARMS, INC. TO THE REPLACEMENT OF SUCH PRODUCT OR REFUND OF THE PURCHASE PRICE OF SUCH PRODUCT, AND NOURSE FARMS, INC. SHALL IN NO EVENT BE LIABLE FOR ANY OTHER DAMAGES, WHETHER DIRECT, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, SPECIAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL.

By acceptance of the product, the buyer acknowledges that the limitations and disclaimers herein described are conditions of sale and that they constitute the entire agreement between parties regarding warranty or any other liability.

**ORDERING** Prices valid to May 31, 2021. Use enclosed order form, call or order online. Order early to ensure your first choices and on-time shipping. We make every effort to ship on time. We do not recommend fall planting.

**PATENTED/LICENSED VARIETIES** identified by a \*, cannot be propagated without permission. Royalty or usage fees are included in their prices. Patented varieties are protected by U.S. patent laws and licensed varieties are produced under contract with plant breeders.

**PLANT PICKUP** Orders can be picked up in Whatley, MA, mid April through late May, Mon. through Fri., 8am to 4:30pm; Sat., 8am to 1pm. Call for other available times.

**SHIPPING AND HANDLING** charges are additional. Shipping by Ground Service unless otherwise specified. Three business days' notice required for orders with "open" ship dates. We'll make every effort to accommodate shipping on short notice.

#### ORDERS TO HAWAII AND ALASKA

Ships 2nd-day air only. Sorry, no exceptions.

**ORDERS TO MIDWEST OR WEST COAST** Shipped on a Monday or Tuesday. On warm temperature days, shipping is by 3-day service to ensure good condition. Added shipping charges are billed. California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington must have phytosanitary certificates (\$15.00).

**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 U.S. funds prior to shipment. Special fees may apply. Add \$25.00 - \$200.00 for export certification by U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. Payment by credit card or bank transfer minimizes your bank fees.

#### PAYMENT

- Orders \$250 or less must be paid in full within 10 days of placing the order or will be subject to cancellation.
- Orders exceeding \$250 require a deposit of 1/3 within 10 days of placing the order, or are subject to cancellation. Balance must be paid in full prior to shipment. In the case of a pickup, a customer may pay the balance at time of pickup.
- Orders shipping after June 1 must be paid in full by June 1 to reserve the plants, or the order will be subject to cancellation and loss of deposit. Orders shipping after June 1 are not eligible for refund if cancelled.
- Net 30 Terms may be extended for orders greater than \$500 for returning customers only; determined on a per customer basis, based upon a Customer Credit Application, and prior payment history with Nourse Farms.
- Service charges of 1.5% per month are added to past due balances.
- We do not refund amounts less than \$3.00.
- We accept Visa, Master Card, Discover, checks, money orders and cash.

**Early  
Pay Discount**  
Orders over \$500,  
paid in full by:  
**Dec. 1, '20 save 3%**  
**Jan. 15, '21 save 2%**  
**Order early!**

FIVE POINTS TO PONDER... continued from page 7

## 5 SMALL FRUIT IRRIGATION

As we look at this season, it is clear the impact water levels can have on crop yield and size. Consistently, and this year was no exception, overhead irrigation is a critical component for frost protection on strawberries. As you look at your irrigation practices on strawberries from post-bloom through harvest, depending on soil type, plants respond best to two inches or more per week. During harvest, berry crops require continuing high levels of irrigation to maintain berry size. Growers using drip irrigation daily are benefitting from the effect of maintaining good moisture levels and evaporative cooling. Drip irrigation is also beneficial in fields where difference in elevation results in wet fruit from puddling due to uneven water distribution. An additional benefit is the ability to inject fertilizer to "spoon-feed" the plants. As many head into the winter season, protection of irrigation equipment from winter damage is important. Your system should be parked in a safe location away from potential wind, rodent and tree damage. All parts of the system, including underground lines should be drained. Trickle and drip lines not covered by plastic, plant material or mulch stand less winter rodent damage.



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES**  
Crop and Pest Services  
251 Causeway Street Suite 500  
Boston, MA 02114

**Certificate of Nursery Inspection**

License No. N-2020 155 Fee: \$210 Issued: 5/29/2020  
THIS CERTIFIES THAT: in accordance with M.G.L., 128, section 17 as amended, the  
Nursery stock at:  
Nourse Farms, Inc.  
41 River Rd.  
So Deerfield, MA 01373

Has been inspected and found to be apparently free from all injurious insects and plant diseases which might be disseminated on such stock.

Expiration Date: 6/30/2021 Issued by: Howard Vinton





# The IBEX Strawberry System

Revolutionizing the way strawberries are grown.



All-In-One  
System



Easy to Grow  
& Harvest



Easy to  
Install



Convenient,  
Elevated Bench

## It's time to raise your strawberry game.

### PERFORMANCE

- Reduced Stoop Labor-No kneeling or bending
- High yields: Allows for spring & fall harvest
- High quality fruit

### ACCESSIBILITY

- U-Pick
- Handicap Friendly
- Elderly Approved
- Urban Farming

### GREATER CONTROL

- Minimizes exposure to weather events, soilborne disease, and other pests
- Extended season with frost protection Weather Shield and Misting System

### RAISED BENCH SPECS

- 12' to 102' long x 44" wide x 35" to bench top
- In-ground or surface mounting
- Commercial grade
- Weatherproof construction
- Irrigation System
  - Drip
  - Controls
  - Misting
  - Injection

ORGANIC  
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► **Go Beyond.** The options are endless for your commercial operations with the IBEX Strawberry System. Grow other fruits, vegetables and leafy greens with our all-in-one platform. Contact us to determine the best option for your commercial growing needs.

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🌐 [IBEXgrows.com](http://IBEXgrows.com)

**IBEX**<sup>™</sup>  
GROWING SYSTEMS



41 River Rd. • South Deerfield, MA 01373

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SPFLD, MA

**BERRY IMPORTANT  
INFORMATION ENCLOSED!**

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FALL 2020

Order early at (413) 665-2658 • [noursefarms.com](http://noursefarms.com)

## Nourse Farms on the Road

Typically we attend several trade shows each year so that we can be available to meet commercial growers across the country. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, our trade show schedule is changing frequently. Please visit our website at [www.noursefarms.com](http://www.noursefarms.com) for the most up-to-date information on winter meetings and trade shows.

## Stay Connected



### Follow us on Facebook

Keep up to date on the happenings at our farm, and get informed! We offer tips and reminders throughout the year, and will let you know when we have a new article or video available. You can participate in discussions with other growers, ask questions or make suggestions. We look forward to sharing with you!



### Follow us on Instagram

See information and photos about our latest berry offerings! Read tips and reviews from other customers.

