



Maximizing Productivity - Strawberry Production Workshop

Monday January 29, 2024

Crystal Ballroom

Hershey Lodge, Hershey PA

- 9:00** Welcome, introduction to workshop (Dr. Marvin Pritts, Cornell Univ. and Dr. David Handley, Univ. of Maine)
- 9:10** Understanding the Strawberry Plant (M. Pritts/D. Handley)
- 9:30** Factors to Consider before Planting (M. Pritts/D. Handley)
- 10:00** Soil Health, Site Preparation, and Crop Rotations (M. Pritts)
- 10:30** Break
- 10:45** Fertility and Nutrient Management (M. Pritts)
- 11:15** Varieties: Cool Climate Performance (D. Handley)
- 11:35** Varieties: Warm Climate Performance (Dr. Jayesh Samtani, Virginia Tech)
- 11:55** Open discussion on morning topics

12:05 Lunch

- 1:00** Matted-Row Production and Variants, including Weed Management (D. Handley)
- 1:50** Plasticulture and Its Variants: Zones 6 and Cooler (M. Pritts)
- 2:15** Plasticulture and Its Variants: Zones 7 and Warmer (J. Samtani)
- 2:40** Break
- 2:50** Insect and Disease Mgt (D. Handley)
- 3:50** Alternative Systems: Greenhouse and Substrate Production (M. Pritts)
- 4:20** Open discussion on afternoon topics
- 4:30** Adjourn



MID-ATLANTIC *fruit & vegetable convention*

Berry Program

Tuesday Morning, 9:00 – 10:30

- 9:00 Soil Health for Berry Crops - Dr. Marvin Pritts, Cornell Univ.
- 9:30 Industry Show and Tell
- 9:45 Practical Uses of Cover Crops in Strawberry Rotations (Dr. Marvin Pritts, moderator) – Charles Gray, 4Corners Farm, VT; John Shenk, Shenk Berry Farm, PA; Jay Yankey, Yankey Farms, VA
- 10:30 Adjourn to Keynote Session
- 12:00 Luncheon Buffet - Great Lobby and Chocolate Lobby (cash)

Tuesday Afternoon, 1:30 – 4:30

- 1:30 *Weeds as Hosts of Strawberry Anthracnose: Implications for Management – Leah Fronk, Penn State Extension
- 2:00 USDA-ARS Strawberry Cultivars from Beltsville – 2024 – Dr. Kim Lewers, USDA-ARS, Beltsville, MD
- 2:30 Understanding Runner Formation and Management – Dr. Edward Durner, Rutgers University
- 3:00 Industry Show and Tell
- 3:15 Greenhouse and High Tunnels: Options in Strawberry Substrate Production – Dr. Neil Mattson, Cornell Univ. and Kathy Demchak, Penn State Univ.
- 3:45 Greenhouse and High Tunnel Strawberry Substrate Production: Practical Experiences – Valérie Bernier-English, Ferme Onésime Pouliot (Onésime Pouliot Farm, Quebec); Kevin Schooley for Tamberry Farm, Ontario
- 4:30 Adjourn

Wednesday Morning, 9:00 – 12:00

- 9:00 **Optimizing Spray Coverage – Dr. George Hamilton, Univ. of New Hampshire (emeritus)
- 9:30 *Cyclamen Mite Management with Miticides and Steam Treatment – Dr. Justin Renkema, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- 10:00 Industry Show and Tell
- 10:15 Nourse Farms: Now and in the Future – John Place, Nourse Farms
- 11:00 Biodegradable vs. Nonbiodegradable Plastic Mulch: An Overview – Gilles Mamame, PolyExpert, Inc.
- 11:30 *Weed Management Strategies for Strawberries – Dr. David Handley, University of Maine
- 12:00 NASGA Annual Meeting
Luncheon Buffet - Great Lobby and Chocolate Lobby (cash)

Wednesday Afternoon, 1:30 – 4:30

- 1:30 *SWD Management: Adjuvants, Biocontrols, Repellents, and Insecticides – Dr. Cesar Rodriguez-Saona, Rutgers Univ.**
- 2:00 Living with Extremism - No, I Mean the Weather and audience discussion – Tom Childs, Twin Spring Fruit Farm, PA**
- 2:30 Living with Extremism - No, I Mean the Weather (cont.)**
- 3:00 Industry Show and Tell**
- 3:15 Current and Future Robotics Applications in Berry Crops – Dr. Long He, Penn State Univ.**
- 4:00 Fine-Tuning Fertilizer Applications for Small Fruit – Mary Concklin, Raspberry Knoll Farm, CT**
- 4:30 Adjourn**

Thursday Morning, 9:00 – 12:00

General Small Fruit

- 9:00 **Re-tooling your Sprayer for Better Insect and Disease Management – Dr. George Hamilton, Univ. of New Hampshire (emeritus)**
- 9:30 Pruning Raspberries to Minimize Disease and Insect Pressure – Dr. David Handley, Univ. of Maine**
- 10:00 Industry Show and Tell**
- 10:15 Growing and Marketing Small Fruit at Raspberry Knoll Farm – Mary Concklin, Raspberry Knoll Farm, CT**
- 11:00 Blueberry Variety Trial Results from Southern Delaware – Dr. Emmalea Ernest, Univ. of Delaware**
- 11:30 *Current Strawberry Disease Issues: What We're Learning – Kathy Demchak, Penn State University**
- 12:00 Luncheon Buffet - Great Lobby and Chocolate Lobby (cash)**

Thursday Afternoon, 1:30 – 4:30

General Small Fruit

- 1:30 *Understanding Nematodes and Management Options in PA Brambles and Blueberries – Dr. Mihail Kantor, Penn State Univ.**
- 2:00 *Blueberry Cane Diseases: Underlying Causes, ID and Management – Dr. Peter Oudemans, Rutgers Univ.**
- 2:45 Critical Points to Know about Pruning Blueberries – Dr. Gary Pavlis, Rutgers Univ.**
- 3:15 Joint Core Session – **Precautionary Statements and Washing of PPE – Tom Butzler, Penn State Extension**
- 3:45 Adjourn**

***Indicates that a topic is expected to qualify for a category pesticide applicator credit for growers in Mid-Atlantic states, while ** indicates that a topic is expected to qualify for a core pesticide applicator credit**