

A photograph of a blueberry field. In the foreground, there are several rows of young blueberry plants spaced out in a field. The plants are small and green, with some showing signs of being recently planted. The ground between the rows is covered with green grass and some brown mulch. In the background, there is a dense line of trees, likely a forest, under a clear sky. The overall scene is a well-maintained agricultural field.

Blueberry Establishment and Maintenance

Ben Beale

Dave Myers

Extension Agents

University of Maryland Extension

Blueberries

- Excellent late spring/early summer season crop for fresh market sales
- Wholesale potential with right economy of scale
- Native plant that is less prone to diseases and pest than many of the other small fruit

Key Factors for Successful Blueberry Establishment

1. Well drained site
2. pH modification to 4.5
3. Soil amended for high organic matter

Key Factors for Successful Blueberry Maintenance

1. Maintain pH near 4.5
2. Mulch beds
3. Irrigation management
4. Bird Control

Lowering Soil pH

- Elemental Sulfur is most often used to lower soil pH to 4.5-4.8 range
- Apply 6-12 months in advance of planting
- Incorporate in top 6-8 inches of soil

Table 7.1. Amount of sulfur required to lower the soil pH.*

Present pH of Soil	Target pH of Soil					
	4.5			5.0		
	Sand	Loam (lbs/acre)	Clay	Sand	Loam (lbs/acre)	Clay
4.5	0	0	0	—	—	—
5.0	175	520	610	0	0	0
5.5	350	1,050	1,130	175	520	610
6.0	520	1,520	1,610	350	1,050	1,130
6.5	650	2,000	2,090	520	1,520	1,610
7.0	830	2,530	2,610	650	2,000	2,090
7.5	1,000	3,010	3,090	830	2,530	2,610

*Iron sulfate may be used at eight times the above rates.



04/14/2005

Spacing: 5' x 12'

Dependent upon
equipment size and
variety



04/14/2005



04/14/2005

Peat moss is added to the planting hole at a rate of 50/50 rate of soil/P moss.



04/14/2005



04/14/2005

Plant Recommendations

- The larger the plant the better.
- 2 or 3 year old plants are preferred
- 18-24 inch tall plants
- 850-1100 plants per acre, depending on spacing



04/14/2005

Little Berry - Blueberry

Planting Instructions & Densities

- ◆ Plant All Roots Shallow – Within The Top 6" Plow Layer
- ◆ Amend pH To 4.5-5.0 Range
- ◆ Space 5' By 10'



Selecting Varieties

- 3 main blueberry types:
 - Northern Highbush:
 - Most widely grown type in Mid-Atlantic area.
 - Southern Highbush:
 - Southern Highbush was developed for southern areas where Northern Highbush could not receive adequate chilling hours (550 chilling units). Cross of Northern Highbush with Darwin southern parentage.
 - Rabbit Eye
 - Southern line with low chilling hour requirement. Vigorous growth habit and high yielding.

Little Berry - Blueberry

Recommended Varieties For Reduced Sprays

- ◆ Bluecrop, Blueray, Duke, Jersey, Patriot, Elliot, Spartan, - Northern Highbush
- ◆ O'Neil, Legacy - Southern Highbush
- ◆ Premiere, Brightwell, Climax, Tiftblue - Rabbiteye Varieties

Recommended Rootstocks

- ◆ Propagated Cuttings - Certified Virus Free

Ripening Dates

- ◆ June 25 - August 5

Training Systems


















- ◆ Spreading High Bush

Pruning

- ◆ No Pruning For 3 Years Except Of Dead Wood
- ◆ Prune Out 6 Year Wood Annually

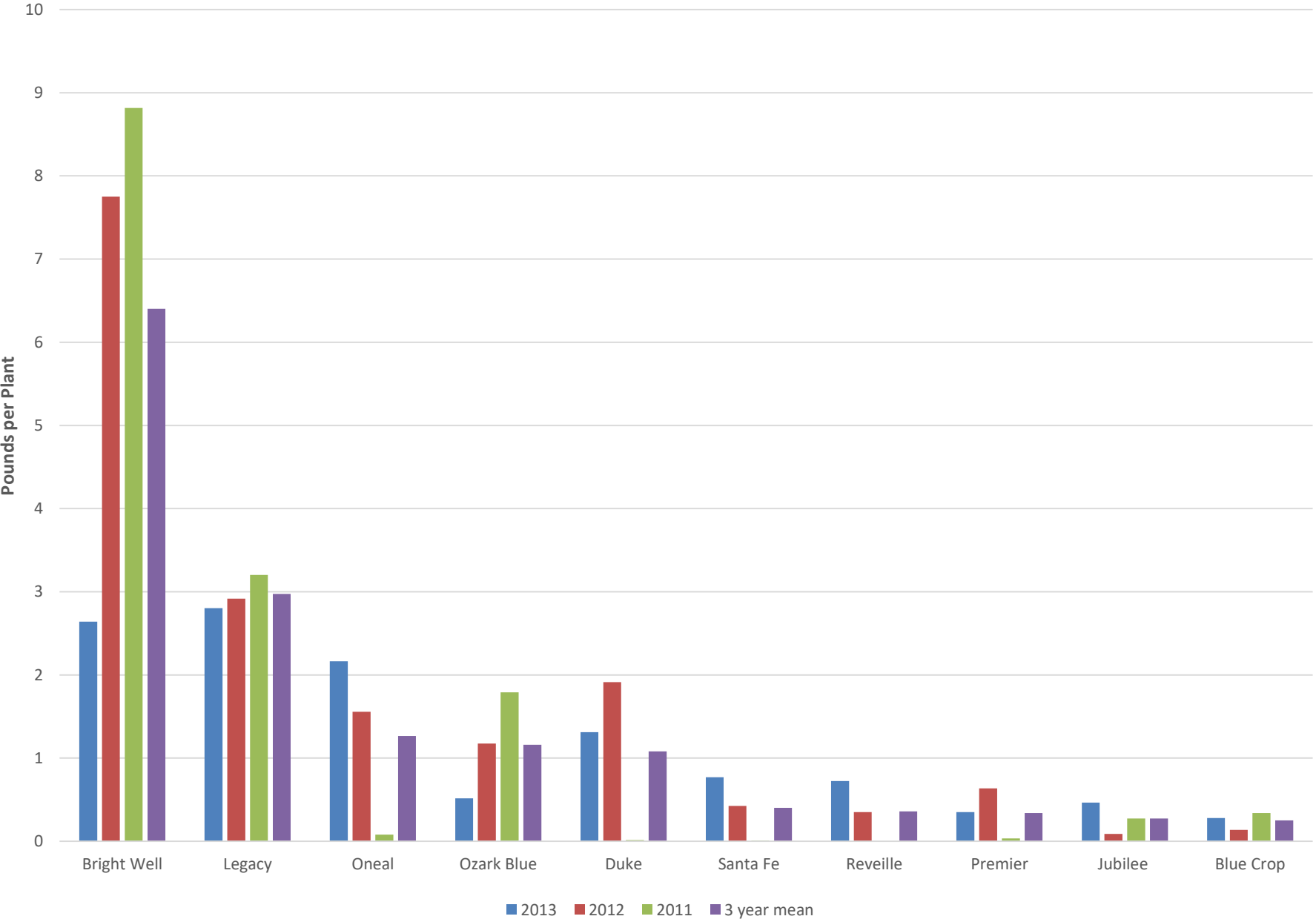


Selecting Varieties

Variety	May	June	July	August	September
Oneal					
Sharpblue					
Jubilee					
Ozarkblue					
Duke					
Bluecrop					
Darrow					
Jersey					
Elliott					
Aurora					
Premiere					
Brightwell					
Tiftblue					
Powder Blue					
Ochlockonee					
Onslow					
Maru					

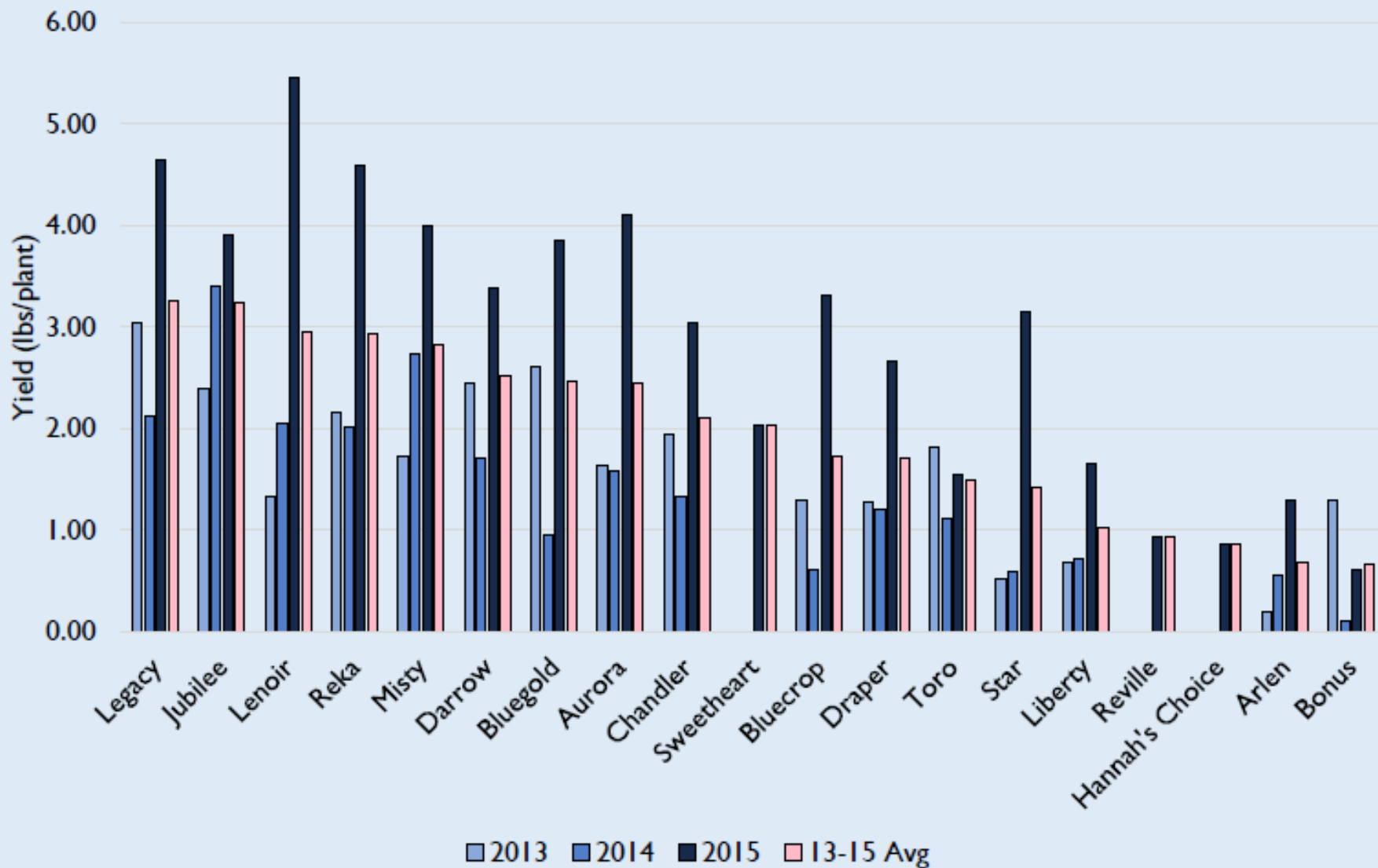
Average Harvest Dates for
Lower Southern Maryland

CMREC Blueberry Variety Trial



Georgetown Blueberry Trial

Blueberry Yields 2013-2015



Delmarva Blueberry Variety Trial; Emmalea Ernest, University of Delaware. Full report available online at:
<https://agresearch.umd.edu/sites/agresearch.umd.../EErnestMarylandFruit2016.pdf>



04/15/2005



04/15/2005



04/15/2005





2-3 inch layer of composted sawdust, acidified mulch, or other organic material should be applied over the beds.







2005

2006

2007



4 year old Rabbiteye in variety trial at Upper Marlboro, CMREC

June 2008



June 2008



Twilight August, 2008





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10 year old Rabbiteye in variety trial at Blackstone, VA REC, VA TECH









Pruning Blueberries

Pruning Basics

Dr. Gary Pavlis; Rutgers Extension

- 1.) Assess the plants overall vigor, is cane production adequate?
- 2.) Prune out all dead wood.
- 3.) Locate the oldest canes and prune out one of every **six** canes thus if the plant has twelve canes, remove two of the oldest.
- 4.) Prune out all low branches which will never be picked and are a source for disease.
- 5.) Detail prune, i.e. remove



Pollination:

Most blueberry varieties are self-fertile. Cross-pollination will enhance fruit size and yield, and is recommended 2 varieties with similar bloom periods are planted within close proximity to each other.





Bird Fiasco













For More information:

- Rutgers University- www.rce.rutger.edu
- U of Maryland-
www.westernmaryland.umd.edu



Nursery Guide for Berry and Small Fruit Crops

HOME

NURSERIES

STRAWBERRIES

BLUEBERRIES

RASPBERRIES

BLACKBERRIES ETC.

OTHER



Nurseries

Below is an alphabetical list of businesses throughout the United States and Canada that have requested inclusion in this nursery guide for berry and small fruit crops. (**How to be included.**) **No endorsement is intended for those included in the list, nor discrimination for those not listed. The buyer must evaluate nursery quality and reputation through independent means.**

Home

Nurseries

Crop cultivars:

<https://blogs.cornell.edu/berrynurseries/nurseries/>

THE MID ATLANTIC BERRY GUIDE

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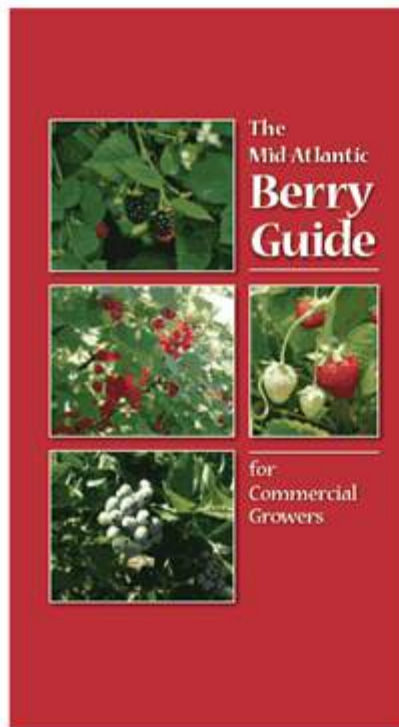
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RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station

The BLUEBERRY BULLETIN

A Weekly Update to Growers

Dr. Gary C. Pavlis, County Agricultural Agent

6260 Old Harding Highway, NJ 08330

Phone: 609/625-0056, Fax: 609/625-3646, Email: pavlis@aesop.rutgers.edu

September 1, 2008

Vol. XXIV, No. 24

AT A GLANCE...

This is the last issue for the 2008 season. I wish you all a very safe and happy holiday season.

In the fall it is wise to:

- 1. Assess how well your herbicide program performed and plan adjustments.**
- 2. Take soil samples to determine if pH should be adjusted (fall is best)**
- 3. Use Ridomil where Phytophthora is present**
- 4. Apply lime sulfur when 2/3 of the leaves drop to control Phomopsis, cane canker etc.**

The Blueberry Bulletin

Weekly Newsletter

Published By

Rutgers Cooperative Research & Extension
of Atlantic County

6260 Old Harding Highway, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

Phone: 609/625-0056, Fax: 609/625-3646

E-mail: pavlis@aesop.rutgers.edu

www.rce.rutgers.edu/pubs/blueberrybulletin

Dr. Gary C. Pavlis, County Agricultural Agent

Editor - The Blueberry Bulletin

Questions?

Ben Beale
Extension Educator
St. Mary's County, MD
301-475-4484
bbeale@umd.edu