



# The Blueberry News

Official Newsletter of the Florida Blueberry Growers' Association

## Fall Issue, 2006

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Editor: Jeff Williamson

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### **Fall Blueberry Short Course**

Tuesday, October 17, 2006  
Florida Farm Bureau Building  
5700 SW 34 th Street  
Gainesville , Fla.

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**8:15 a.m. Late Registration** - late registration at the door is \$20 per person and does not guarantee a meal. **See enclosed pre-registration form for early registration rate.**

**8:45 a.m. Welcome** - Mr. Frankie Hall , associate director of agricultural policy, Florida Farm Bureau, Gainesville , Fla.

**8:55 a.m. Principles of frost and freeze protection in Florida blueberries** - Dr. Dorota Haman, Agricultural and Biological Engineering, IFAS, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.

**9:55 a.m. Break**

**10:05 a.m. Principles of frost and freeze protection in Florida blueberries continued** - Dr. Dorota Haman, Agricultural and Biological Engineering, IFAS, University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.

**11:05 a.m. Overview of labor issues facing Florida growers** - Mr. Kevin Morgan , director of agricultural policy, Florida Farm Bureau, Gainesville , Fla.

**11:25 a.m. Update on Dormex research** - Dr. Jeff Williamson, Horticultural Sciences Dept., IFAS, University of Florida , Gainesville , Fla.

**11:40 a.m. Dormex orders and availability in Florida** - Mr. Rick Hill, regional Dormex USA representative, Jacksonville , Fla.

**11:50 a.m. FBGA Business Meeting** - Ms. Donna Miller, FBGA president, presiding

**12:10 p.m. Lunch** - provided for pre-registrants.

**1:00 p.m. Depart for field tour of blueberry research and breeding plots at the Plant Science Research and Education Unit (PSREU)**, Citra , Fla. - Dr. Jeff Williamson, extension horticulturist, and Dr. Paul Lyrene, blueberry breeder, Horticultural Sciences Dept., IFAS, University of Florida , Gainesville , Fla. Maps will be provided.

**Information about the short course -**

**Registration** - Enclosed, please find a *pre-registration form* for the Fall Blueberry Short Course. **This form must be returned postmarked by October 7 to guarantee your meal and to receive the early registration rate of \$10.00 per person for FBGA members and \$20.00 per person for non-members.** Note that FBGA membership is on a per farm bases. Being a FBGA member allows you and any employee or family member associated with your blueberry operation to attend FBGA meetings at the discounted membership rate of \$10.00 per person. Your pre-registration includes the morning short course, lunch, and an afternoon tour. Please note that the registration fee does not cover your FBGA dues which are due Jan. 1 of each year.

**Directions to the Farm Bureau Building in Gainesville** - Traveling north on I-75, take the first Gainesville exit on the south side of town (the Williston Rd. or Hwy 121 exit). Go about 1,000 feet east toward Gainesville on Hwy 121 and turn south (right) on Hwy 23 ( Rocky Point Rd or S.W. 34 th Street ). The Farm Bureau building is less than 1 mile south on

the right side of the road. For parking, drive around to the opposite side of the building which is the side that faces I-75. If you are traveling to Gainesville on Hwy 441, turn west on Williston Rd. and go toward I-75. Turn south on 34 th Street ( Rocky Point Rd. ) just before you get to I-75.

## **Preparing for the Fall/Winter blueberry season**

Jeffrey G. Williamson, Horticultural Sciences Dept., UF/IFAS

**Dormex** . Growers should decide soon whether or not they will use Dormex, and if so, how much they will need. A review of current Dormex research in Florida , and information on placing Dormex orders, will be provided at the Fall Short Course. If you are not able to attend the Blueberry Short Course, you can contact Mr. Rick Hill by phone at (813) 781-0902 to place your order. A discussion of use of Dormex on Florida blueberries can be found at: <http://www.hos.ufl.edu/jgwweb/index.html>

Click on "past issues". Look at the *Winter 2001* issue. There are a few updates that should be noted since that article was written. The Dormex label now calls for rates of 1.5% to 3.0% (v/v). However, our research has shown that rates of 3.0% or greater have resulted in substantial flower bud injury and reduction of crop load. In one recent experiment, a rate of 2.5% (v/v) caused considerable flower bud damage in a potted study, but not in a grower's field trial. Care should be exercised when applying rates higher than 2.0%. Further discussion of rate responses can be found in the *Winter 2001* issue of *Blueberry News* . Several cultivars such as 'Sharpblue', 'Windsor' and 'Primadonna' have shown greater than average sensitivity to Dormex resulting in significant flower bud damage. Emerald, Jewel and Star have generally responded well to Dormex in north-central Florida but many other newer cultivars have not been thoroughly tested. The following statement was taken from the Dormex label - "It is the grower's responsibility to identify varieties that are tolerant to the higher rates before any larger acreage is treated. To do this, take a small group of plants to be treated at the appropriate rates under the anticipated growing conditions and observe for phytotoxicity symptoms before treating large numbers of plants". Our research and observations in Florida have also indicated that thorough coverage is very important for a good Dormex response. Spray volumes of 50 to 100 gpa are called for by the label and are usually required for good coverage in typical Florida blueberry fields. Remember that Dormex is a restricted-use pesticide with many specific requirements for handling and application. Growers without a certified pesticide applicators license, or without the proper equipment for handling and application, should consider having Dormex custom applied by a certified applicator.

**Freeze protection** . Virtually all early-season blueberry fields in Florida are subject to late winter or early spring freezes. This year's Fall Short Course will feature a detailed presentation on freeze protection by Dr. Dorota Haman. Even before the short course, there are a few things growers can begin to think about with regards to winterizing their blueberry fields. I have reproduced a useful list of activities below that was taken from an article by Mike Mainland in the *North Carolina Blueberry News, Vol. 7, No. 1*.

Reinstall suction lines and check primers.

Test and service the pumping unit, replace filters and have spare filters available.

Treat diesel tanks for water and algae.

Check lines and sprinklers in the field for leaks and clogged nozzles.

Check water pressure on ends of distant lines.

Make sure drainage in and around fields is adequate. Make sure roadways around and through the fields will withstand traffic at night during irrigation.

Have a high-intensity spotlight ready to plug into the truck to check sprinkler operation

Make sure drainage in and around fields is adequate.

Put shielded minimum thermometers in cold, average, and warm areas of fields.

Hang some ribbons on trees or poles around fields to detect slight breezes.

Identify a good source of agricultural weather information and watch it closely. Consider subscribing to a weather service that issues freeze warnings.

Consider purchasing a monitor that calls you when the temperature gets low.

Consider purchasing a hand-held wind meter or anemometer to measure wind speed.

Consider purchasing a sling psychrometer to measure wet bulb and dry bulb temperatures, relative humidity, and dew point. An excellent discussion of these terms and their importance in cold protection can be found at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/CH054>.

Have rain suits and boots available for everyone responsible for checking the irrigation system.

Have wires available to unclog nozzles.

Have tools and replacement parts that are necessary to exchange nozzles and/or sprinklers.

## **BLUEBERRY PRODUCTS AND SERVICES**

**A-1 plants!** The Doc's Blueberry Nursery. Since 1988, quality Southern Highbush plants at competitive prices. Winter

Haven , Central Florida . (863)325-8215. Popular commercial varieties available as liners or 1 gal pots. Call Dave Weber for price and availability. Lic No 47219637.

**Blueberry Plants.** High-quality, heavily-rooted, blueberry plants in one gallon containers. One or thousands, for price and availability call 813-244-5877 . Sun-Robin Horticulture 14923 CR39, Lithia. Lic. No. 47236647

**Bob's Blueberry Farm and Nursery.** West Pasco County . (727)863-4214 or toll free (888) 654-4214. Year around plant sales, southern highbush blueberry plants, all sizes and varieties, over 40,000 on hand. Call for prices and availability. Plan ahead, have the plants you need when you need them. Lic. no. 47227344.

**D & J Blueberry Farm and Nursery** - Taking Orders Now for Rooted Cuttings and Groundbed Blueberry Plants. PRIMADONNA, SPRINGHIGH, SPRINGWIDE, SNOW CHASER, EMERALD, JEWEL and STAR. Call or email Donna for price list 352-637-0882 [djblueberry@mindspring.com](mailto:djblueberry@mindspring.com)

**Elixson Wood Products, Inc.** Pine bark - shredded, nuggets, or fines available. Ph (904) 964-6649.

**Far Reach Ranch** . Blueberry plants for sale. 30 miles North of Orlando. Jewel, Emerald, Star liners and 1 gal. Call Jerry (352) 516-7428.

**Honey Bees for Blueberry Pollination.** We use the Buckfast strain, which pollinates at temperatures 20 cooler than other strains. Bees guaranteed for strength. \$20.00 per hive. Call Robbie Bell toll free (800) 822-1558; home (863) 285-7785; mobile (863) 698-9525.

**Island Grove Ag Products.** Don't buy plants until you've talked with us. We have all varieties including new releases from the University of Florida . We grow specifically for your needs. Lic. no. 47217870. Sheri Brothers at (352) 481-5558 or [berrygirl629@aol.com](mailto:berrygirl629@aol.com), Website [islandgroveagproducts.com](http://islandgroveagproducts.com).

**Jacto Sprayers/Henry Mitchem Equip.** Save time and chemical costs with a Jacto Airblast Sprayer. Jacto is the number one sprayer in the blueberry and nursery industries and has proven itself in helping productivity. For more information or a demonstration, call Kenny Mitchem at (352) 787-4109, Leesburg FL.

**Miller Blueberry Nursery** . Rt. 3, Box 5700 , Palatka , FL 32177 , Telephone (386) 325-7373. Let us supply your blueberry plants. All varieties. All sizes. Bare root and potted. Please call for prices. Lic. no. 04720531.

**Mixon Family Farm, Inc.** We have excellent quality blueberry plants for sale. We sell Bare Root or Rooted Cuttings and we have the newest releases form the University of Florida . Call Jerry Mixon (863) 439-8335 for price and availability. License no. 472255191.

Row Mulcher for Rent \$50 per day of use. Will deliver and pick-up on long rentals. D&J Blueberry Farm 352-637-0882 or email [djblueberry@mindspring.com](mailto:djblueberry@mindspring.com) Ask for Don Goldberg or Donna Miller.

**8" Holloshaft Gear Drive** 70hp 1320 Drive RPM 1760 Pump RPM Lane & Bowler 6 cyl Perkins engine. Call 352-745-6143.

**10" Amarill right angle gear drive 80 hp @ 1760 vert. Gould 1985 4 cyl 2003 John Deere model. Call 352-745-6143.**

**17,000 1 gal blueberry plants. Lic. no. 47217870. Call 352-745-6143.**

### **ADVERTISING INFORMATION**

We welcome advertising from blueberry nurseries and suppliers. The cost is 30 cents per word per issue of the newsletter in which your message appears. Send your blueberry-related message and a check payable to **FLORIDA BLUEBERRY GROWERS' ASSOCIATION** to our address given below under membership information. Advertisements and claims therein to do not constitute an endorsement by the Florida Blueberry Growers' Association or the University of Florida .

### **MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

To join or renew your membership to the Florida Blueberry Growers Association, mail a check payable to **FLORIDA BLUEBERRY GROWERS' ASSOCIATION** to our address:

Florida Blueberry Growers' Association  
P.O. Box 163  
Island Grove , FL 32654

**The Association annual dues depend on which membership category you fit best.**

1. Regular Florida Member - \$10.00 per acre of blueberries, except a minimum of \$50.00 and a maximum of \$200.00.
2. Out-of -state member - \$50.00
3. Associate member - \$100.00 (Equipment and chemical companies, etc.)
4. Educational and Research - \$10.00 (University and USDA personnel who do not grow blueberries commercially)



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