



April 22, 2009

Dear Member:

The 2009 blueberry season is well underway. There is a good crop of fruit in the fields, although the crop was thinned somewhat by the late freeze April 6 & 7. Damage was sustained across the region but it was more significant on the eastern side of the region. Some growers along the Mississippi, Alabama line received substantial damage to their fruit yield. Overall, the damage is estimated to be about 30% of the total crop.

Chill hour accumulation totals for 2009, in Mississippi, are as follows:

Crystal Springs	Jones County	Poplarville	Verona	George County	Gulfport	Wayne County
998	1053	865	1065	720	673	1018

Cranberry Fruit Worm

Several growers have called about preventing **cranberry fruit worm** infestation. Cranberry Fruit Worm is an insect that feeds on young blueberry fruit as it matures. The adult is a nocturnal moth that lays its egg, after bloom, in the edge of the calyx of a newly formed blueberry fruit. The egg hatches in about 3 to 5 days. The larva is a green caterpillar that webs 3 to 8 berries together and feeds on them. It destroys an entire cluster of blueberry fruit by entering all the berries it has webbed together and feeding on them. The berries become shriveled and the webbing becomes full of frass as the worm feeds within the cluster. The worm completes its life cycle, falls to the ground and over winters in the soil. An occasional cluster with Cranberry Fruit Worm damage is nothing to be concerned about but a severe infestation can markedly reduce your crop. It is good to be aware of the pest and monitor the populations in the field.

Cranberry fruit worm can be controlled with a post-bloom application of a labeled insecticide (most commonly Malathion). The cranberry fruit worm adult lays her egg in the calyx of the fruit after the fruit has been pollinated and flowers are gone. If you had an infestation last year, you should look for the pest and make two applications of Malathion or other labeled insecticide, the first after flowering and bees are gone and the second 7-14 days later.

2009 Blueberry Jubilee

The 2009 Blueberry Jubilee will be held Saturday, June 13, 2009 in Poplarville, Miss. We are anticipating a very active and enjoyable day. There are booth spaces available if you would like to participate. You may sell blueberry fruit, plants, blueberry products, or other fruit or fruit products or plants. There will also be some booths selling ornamental plants. Crowds, annually, have averaged 12,000 people for the one-day event. There is a big demand for fresh blueberries, so we need a good supply of fresh blueberries throughout the day. Value added products, made from blueberries, are also in high demand. If you would like to participate, complete and return the attached form and I will reserve you a booth. The cost of a booth is \$15.00. If you decide not to participate as a vendor, come visit, and enjoy the day.

This event has been very successful in promoting blueberries over the past 25 years. We need to take full advantage of this event to make people aware of locally produced blueberries, encourage them to buy blueberries during the season and use blueberry products throughout the year. This is also a great place to develop relationships with new customers, who will visit your farm year after year.

Direct Market List

Attached is our current Direct Market List. This is a comprehensive list of farms selling blueberries and other fruits and vegetables directly to the public. This list gets a lot of exposure at Welcome Stations, Extension Offices, Chamber of Commerce Offices, newspapers, websites and a multitude of other locations. We try to keep this list as current as possible. This list is a valuable tool to get your farm name and location to people who are looking to buy fresh products directly from the grower. Please review your entry and see if the information has changed or needs to be updated. If your name is not on the list please send me your information, and I will add it to the list. If you have a direct market farm in Louisiana or Alabama, send me your information and we will make a section for farms in LA and AL.

Gulf South Blueberry Growers Membership Dues

Membership dues for the Gulf South Blueberry Growers Association are due. They are due in January of each year but I have been negligent in getting the membership forms out to you this year. A number of you have already sent in your dues and we appreciate it very much. If you haven't paid your dues, please fill out the attached renewal form and send in your dues. Thank you for your participation and support.

Sincerely,

John Braswell, Ph.D.
Executive Secretary

GULF SOUTH BLUEBERRY GROWERS ASSOCIATION
CLASSIFIED ADS
April, 2009

For Sale: Fiberglass Trays, 42"x20"x8" deep, for harvest or farm use. Call Barbara Davis at 601-754-5210

For Sale: 2001 WWW brand all alumina enclosed trailer. Insulated with paneling, air condition, 4 small slide windows, side door and double back doors, new tires with brakes, excellent shape. Used to transport blueberries from field to processing. I would put a generator in back of truck and run A/C to processing plant. It has 7 ft. ceiling and low floor for easy loading. Asking price is \$5,200. Contact James M. Allen at 601-551-0697 Cell or 601-276-6110 Home, email is j.allen@wildblue.net.

For Sale: 10 acre blueberry farm located out of Poplarville--the Blueberry Capital. Start making money in May! This farm produced 56,000 pounds of blueberries last year. Well maintained--irrigation system. Two older mobiles remain and sold in "as is" condition. Priced to sell at \$97,000. Call Callihan Property Sales to see. 601-795-2105

For Lease: Five acres of Blueberries for two-thousand dollars. Call or come to see me at 949 Reservoir Rd., Waynesboro, MS 39367. Telephone 601-735-2306.

For Sale Blueberry Processing Equipment: Smith Enterprises Blower Cleaner, Tilt Belt and Inspection Belt, \$6,000, \$3,000 and \$2,500 respectively. Blower Cleaner has been completely rebuilt, Tilt Belt and Inspection Table barely used. Also manual Clamshell Filler capable of 1,500 flats a day - \$750. All or part - Pictures available upon request. Contact Chris Alexander, Gloster, LA , 318-218-8347.

For Sale: BEI 15ft. 30-inch inspection belt, 30-inch blower with wire incline feed, Lazy Susan and Fill Line with denester and closer. Contact Malcolm Edwards at 601-408-2996.

For Sale: JDV Guide Mount Sway Type Blueberry Harvester, dual blower – Good condition - \$7,500.00. Call 601-735-1416 or 601-755-0622.

For Sale: Weed Badger (need hoses), Pump and Motor good. Must sell – make offer. Call Bobby Smith at 318-868-8234.

For Sale: Blueberry Plants – Brightwell, Premier, Climax and Powderblue varieties. Contact Tim Goggans, Sandy Run Farm & Nursery at 601-270-7952.

For Sale: Rabbiteye blueberry plants - Alapaha, Austin, Climax, Premier, Brightwell and Powderblue. Southern Highbush--Star and Legacy. 2 and 3-year old plants. All varieties - \$1.50 per plant except Star and Alapaha - \$1.75 per plant. Contact James Craft at 601-722-4956.

For Sale: Pine Bark Planting Mix and Bedding Mulches. Contact Steven, Hartfield Wood Products, Petal, MS at 601-544-1955.

Bee Hives for Blueberry Pollination. Call to reserve your hive. Contact J. T. Crownover of Crown Honey at 601-953-4804.

Irrigation and Drainage Systems and parts and supplies. 1-800-say-rain (729-7246) or www.irrigation-mart.com

Capital Leasing Corporation provides leasing services to growers for harvesting, grading and other farm equipment. Please call us for a quote on a customized lease for your next equipment acquisition. 1-800-880-4532 or (601) 981-3442.

Irrigation Supplies - Poly Drip Irrigation, Mike Goree, 1-800-676-0979, Baton Rouge, LA

For Sale: Gallon Pails, Boxes, plain white berry flats, plastic pints and clam shells. Contact Tommy Pratt with J & M Industries at 1-800-989-1002.

Serving the Blueberry Industry in the Gulf South

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