

Production systems for extended season fresh blackberries

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Seven-month-old 'Prime-Jan' plants were established in field and tunnel on May 6, 2005. There are 4 reps (with 5 plants/rep) for each of the following treatments: 1) Primocanes soft-tipped (upper 5-7 cm) at 0.5 m; 2) Primocanes pruned to ground once reaching 0.25 m, then soft-tipped at 0.5m ("re-cut 0.25m"); 3) Primocanes pruned to ground once reaching 0.5 m, then soft-tipped at 0.5m; 4) Primocanes soft-tipped at 0.5m then branches soft-tipped at 0.5m ("double-tipped"). There are 4 replicates per treatment combination with 5 plants per 10' plot replicate. These treatments were determined based on experience/experimentation in the field in 2005-06. There are identical plantings/treatments in the open field and in the tunnel.

There was no fruit production in 2005 (the planting year). Thus, the first data collection was in 2006. Data collected include: growth rate, date of tipping, date of first bloom, node location of flowers, daily temp. and humidity inside tunnel/field, yield, avg. weight, and firmness of berries, branching habit, flowering morphology, chemical evaluation of berries (pH, titratable acidity, brix, anthocyanins, total phenolics, antioxidants), and drupelet counts (pollination). The target months for extended season production are September through November.

Data will be presented to the industry.

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