

USDA-ARS/Oregon State University Cooperative Breeding Program- Report to Oregon Blackberry and Raspberry Commission

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Abstract

The USDA-ARS breeding program in cooperation with Oregon State University and the Pacific Northwest industry continues to try to develop raspberry, blackberry, and strawberry cultivars that will meet the industry stated objectives, the primary of which has been to develop a thornless blackberry with outstanding flavor/processing characteristics that can be machine harvested for processing and ideally is a bit firmer and more winter tolerant than 'Marion'. 'Black Diamond', 'Black Pearl' and 'Nightfall' were recently released as thornless cultivars for processing along with 'Obsidian' and 'Metolius', which, while thorny, are the earliest ripening fresh market cultivars.

In 2006, we evaluated about 7000 blackberry, raspberry and black raspberry seedlings. We made 165 successful crosses and planted out about 7000 seedlings!

The highlights of the blackberry and raspberry trials will be presented as well as a focus on small fruited thornless blackberries, new fresh market selections in grower trials and a new fresh market raspberry being considered for release.

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