

Virtual Virginia Berry School

Agenda



March 04 - Blueberry

Time	Topic	Speaker
9:00 am	Introduction to Berry School	Chris Mullins, VSU
9:00 am	Welcome	Dr. Woods, VSU
9:10 am	The A to Z of blueberry, 'Starting a Blueberry Farm' considerations for soil amendment and preparation, variety selection, and planting	Bill Cline, North Carolina State University
10:00 am	A local grower experience with growing organic blueberry	Jay Dunbar, River Ridge Organic Farm
10:30 am	Break	
10:45 am	Blueberry crop management, pruning, fertilization, irrigation and harvesting	Bill Cline, North Carolina State University
11:15 am	Container grown berry crops, including blueberry, blackberry, and raspberry	Dr. Gary Gao, Ohio State University
12:00 pm	Lunch	
12:45 pm	Berry diseases	Dr. Sara Villani, North Carolina State University
1:30 pm	VSU blueberry variety trial- three years results	Dr. Reza Rafie VSU
2:00 pm	Virtual field visit, hands-on pruning demonstration	Dr. Reza Rafie, VSU
3:00 pm	Adjourn – See you tomorrow	

March 05 - Blackberry

Time	Topic	Speaker
9:00 am	Health benefits of berry fruits	Dr. Rafat Siddiqui, VSU
9:30 am	Basics of Blackberry Production, potential varieties	Dr. Reza Rafie, VSU and Dr. Jayesh Samtani, VT
10:15 am	How to start an acre of blackberry production, how much is the investment?	Jeff Cole, Cole Berry Farm and Dr. Reza Rafie, VSU
11:00 am	Break	
11:15 am	Pruning blackberry and different types of trellises	Jeff Cole, Cole Berry Farm and Dr. Reza Rafie, VSU
12:00	Lunch	
1:00 pm	Post harvest management of berries	Dr. Penelope Perkins-Veazie, NCSU
1:30 pm	Berry Crops integrated pest management	Dr. Doug Pfeiffer, VT
2:30 pm	Weed management in berry production	Dr. Jeffry Derr, VT
3:00 pm	Field hands-on blackberry pruning demonstration	Jeff Cole, Cole Berry Farm, and Dr. Reza Rafie
4:00 pm	Evaluation of the event	Jessica Harris



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