



Blueberry Production Research and Education for Current and Aspiring Blueberry Growers

ISSUE



Blueberries are a potentially profitable crop for growers, especially those who market directly to consumers.



Limited information was available to guide growers in establishment, management and variety selection.



Current and aspiring blueberry growers needed educational opportunities to learn how to establish and manage the crop in Delaware's unique set of soil conditions.

RESPONSE



UD Extension Vegetable and Fruit Research Program collaborated with blueberry grower Hail Bennett.



- ◆ Conducted research to determine which varieties perform well in Delaware.
- ◆ Test low-cost or free mulch materials and soil amendments.
- ◆ Develop recommended practices for establishing and maintaining blueberries.
- ◆ Clarify nitrogen fertilization recommendations.
- ◆ Taught blueberry workshops to commercial growers and home gardeners.

IMPACT



41%

had planted Southern highbush blueberry varieties which research showed to be well adapted in southern Delaware.



76%

indicated that they learned something new.

17

out of 33 participants in blueberry workshops responded to a survey.



59%

applied something they had learned on their farm or in their garden.



82%

said the blueberry variety trial results had helped them decide which blueberry varieties to plant.