

Peninsula Master Gardener Small Fruit Class



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Syllabus



- ❧ Inspire and instruct on tidewater strawberries, brambles, blueberries, grapes and minor fruits
- ❧ Provide a resource list for expanding further knowledge
- ❧ Share actual experience and pictures of small fruits in the tidewater.

KEY RESOURCE : THE VIRGINIA FRUIT PAGE



The Mid-Atlantic Regional Fruit Loop:

The Virginia Fruit Page

Extension, Research and Teaching in Fruit Crops

Fruit Production in the mid-Atlantic region has a long history, dating to Colonial times in Virginia with pomological and viticultural efforts by founders such as Thomas Jefferson and George Washington. Today, Virginia ranks approximately sixth in the nation for apple production (about 11,929 acres). There are about 1,770 acres of peach, 4,370 acres of grape, and about 425 acres of blueberry, 380 acres of caneberries and 290 acres of strawberry ([USDA 2012 census](#)).



For more detailed information, please click on the desired crop:



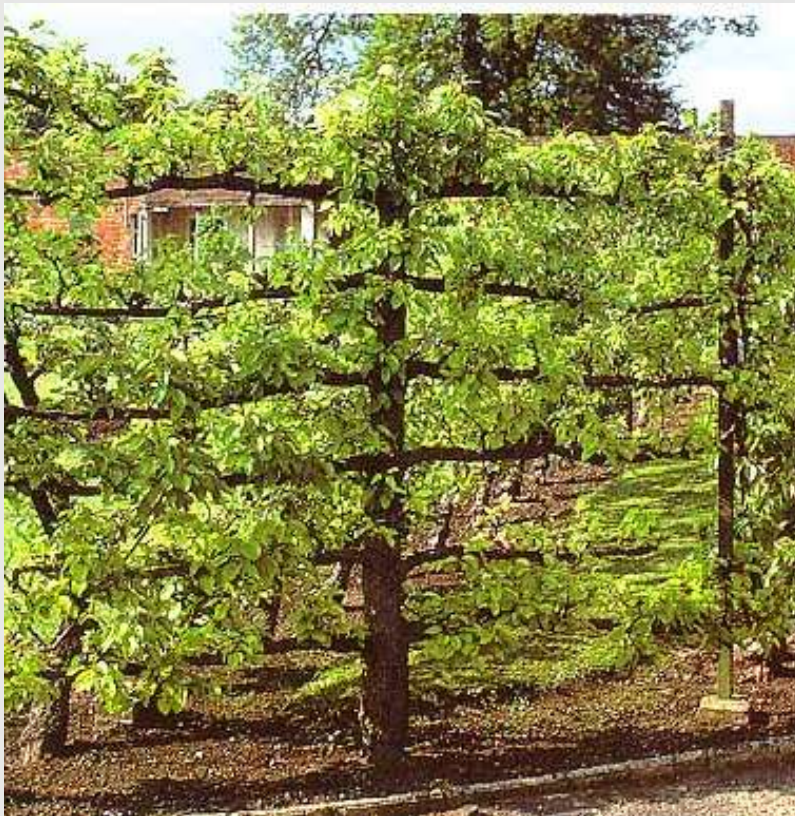
[Apple](#) [Pear](#) [Stone Fruits](#) [Grape](#) [Small Fruit](#)

Here is a simple list of links to resources available in this fruit home page:

- [Virginia Tech Tree Fruit Extension and Outreach Web Site](#)
- [Virginia Tech Tree Fruit Extension and Outreach in Facebook](#)
- [Home Fruit Production](#)
- [Horticultural Practices](#)
- [Fruit IPM](#)
- [Honey Bees and Pollination](#)
- [Weather Information](#)
 - [National Climate Assessment](#) (May 2014 report)
- [Soil Testing](#)
- [Mid-Atlantic Land-Grant University Fruit Faculty](#)
- [Research Units](#)
- [Other Sources of Fruit Information](#)
- **New!** [Interested in Continuing Education?](#)

MOST
IMPORTANT
RESOURCE

Fruit provides perennial opportunities for vertical development in the garden



Reasons to Promote Fruit Culture

- ❧ Family's quality of life & health
- ❧ Locally produced food and beverages
- ❧ Value as landscape elements
- ❧ Outdoor recreation
- ❧ Preserve heirloom varieties
- ❧ Fruit industry sustainability
- ❧ Social interaction including CSA's

Incredible Edible Berries



- ❧ Require minimum space for amount of fruit produced
- ❧ Power house of nutrients
- ❧ Bite size array of healthy textures, colors and flavors

Strawberries



- ❧ Broad culture options
- ❧ Regular matted row planting ideal for home
- ❧ Straw mulch
- ❧ TIP : remove first flowers post planting



Raspberries



- ❧ Red Raspberries
- ❧ Purples Raspberries
- ❧ Black Raspberries
- ❧ Fall Raspberries



Purple Raspberries



Cornell Univ Cross between Black Raspberry and Red Raspberry in the 1970's - This is the variety ROYALTY



Black Raspberries



Black Raspberries have much higher health benefits than blueberries but much lower yields



Blackberries

- Acclimated to VA
- Great new Thornless Varieties
- Options for 4 season hands on management ???
- New varieties for Fall fruiting 😊



Blueberries



- ∞ pH is a vital factor here
- ∞ Mulch is critical
- ∞ Plant a 1 gal nursery plant



Grapes

- ❧ For Tidewater, try Muscadines or limited plantings
- ❧ Prepare for Pest issues



Currants, Gooseberries & Elderberries



Planting : Location

Location Location



- ∞ Consider IPM : 3 M's
- ∞ Minimize
- ∞ Monitor
- ∞ Manage



Optimize your site when possible



Well Drained Soil is KEY
And proper pH is too

Irrigation



Weed management



Structure and support is key!
2400 posts...18 miles of wire
You can be innovative 😊



Caneberry Pruning in Feb, May, & September...



Ready for "Fall" Harvest

Pick from May 12 - December 1



Common Pests



- “Pest” has a very broad scope in Berry Crops! PEST = any influence that can affect the plants life cycle
- people, deer, birds, sun, frost, rain, hail, wind, drought, dust, corn bin dryer...flood
- Apply authorized, up to date “Crop Protectants” (not Pesticides)

PRIMARY PEST MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- ❧ Correct identification of insects and diseases
- ❧ Determine if a need for control exists and proper timing of treatments
- ❧ Learn about appropriate pesticide recommendations and possible alternatives to conventional fruit sprays
- ❧ Learn how to practice integrated pest management (IPM) options in the home planting

Sanitation



- ❧ The destruction of places that harbor insects and diseases plays a large part in the control program.
- ❧ Collect and burn debris.
- ❧ Remove and destroy all dropped fruit.
- ❧ Rake and burn apple and cherry leaves.
- ❧ Scrape loose bark from trunks, crotches, and main limbs of apple trees.
- ❧ Prune out and destroy all dead or diseased
- ❧ Conditions that encourage mice should also be eliminated.

Hail Damage



Mites



Cane Borer



Verticillium Wilt



Cane Blight



Up to 66 known caneberry viruses...



Leaf Curl Virus ?



Fall Lady Beetles



SWD Spotted Wing Drosophila

- New pest and now in most of US, including Virginia.
- Minimize with good sanitation
- Monitor with vinegar trap
- Manage with rotating pyrethrum insecticides



Vole/Mole



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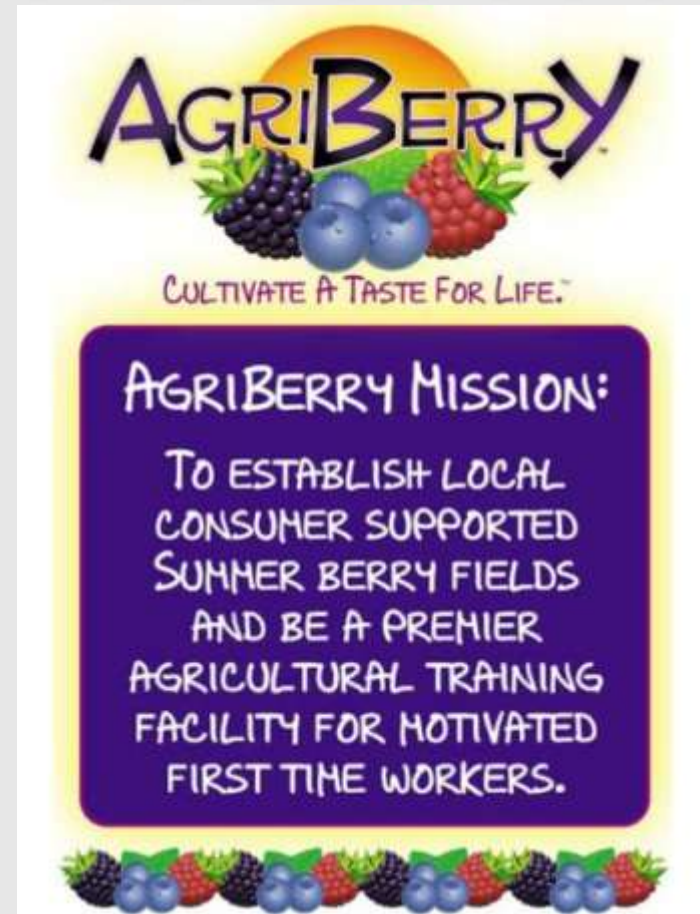
Mid-Atlantic Regional Fruit Loop

<http://www.virginiafruit.ento.vt.edu/>



2005...NBCI vision to triple berry consumption by 2020?

- ❧ Without land or wealth - could I be the first US berry farm started with a Community Supported Agriculture "CSA" model?
- ❧ Could I fund a first worker training program around summer raspberries and blackberries?
- ❧ Aware of Richmond's emerging locavore market AND "Free resources" for new businesses ...SBA, SCORE



Geyer Backyard Berries



20 Week Agriberry CSA



Young people involved





Small fruit growing & marketing is what its all about for the Agriberry family farm!



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