Better berries for a better life

Geographical location:
European Union

Keywords:
Plant production and horticulture
blueberry
raspberry
strawberry

Agricultural sectors:
Fruits

Main funding source:
EU Framework programmes

Project acronym:
EuBerry

Project type:
Research project

Starting date:
2011

End date:
2014

Project status:
completed

Title (in English):
Better berries for a better life

Language:
English

Objective of the project (native language):

Berries are becoming more popular as a result of their perceived beneficial properties by consumers. Demand in the EU is expected to grow by 7% by 2020. To achieve this the market needs a constant supply of safe and fresh fruit with a high sensory and nutritional value. The EUBerry project aimed to develop improved cultivation techniques for obtaining high-quality, consumer-desirable fresh berry fruits at a competitive cost. (see additional information field)

Objective of the project (in English):

NA

Description of activities (native language):

(see additional information field)

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Short summary for practitioners

Additional information:

Results led to many practical recommendations, including:

* Amount and timing of nutrient supply can be used to modify strawberry plant architecture in the nursery. Reduction of Nitrogen can improve the reproductive behaviour and plant quality.

* To extend harvest season, use of perforated plastic cover and fibre cover in the early spring is beneficial for early yield of raspberry plants. In the south, it is possible to extend production season of blackberry by double-cropping. With two harvests productivity is increased and season extended for the high fruit market price.

* Frost is most effectively delayed by limiting night-time ventilation and deploying an energy screen. A fog system ensures longer spring growing season. Light emitting diodes can be used for supplemental light in tunnels for strawberry and raspberry in the North but to have full benefit, heat should be supplied from late September. Spring frost can be reduced with tailored low water supply.

* Extreme and constant high temperature reduce strongly yield and fruit quality. Still a good yield can be achieved under the high tunnel with a filter blocking UV B light.

* Alternative cultivation systems by application of mulching in combination with natural enemies can sharply reduce the use of chemicals to control thrips.

http://cordis.europa.eu/result/rcn/167742_en.html

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Links
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