

# Mississippi *Vaccinium* Journal

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## Just Bidin' Time

The year is almost over. A stressful and chaotic year that most of us will prefer to forget. Hurricane season was awful. And the political season? Well, the less said about that the better. Still, we look forward to bigger and better things next year. We will still plan to host a blueberry education workshop, but it likely will be an online affair this time. SWD is still with us and educational opportunities for that are on page 2. Dr. Sosnoskie from Cornell University asked me to distribute a survey regarding weed management — something we could all use help with. So please respond so that she and her collaborators can help us. In case you missed it, Sulforix is now labeled in Mississippi! And finally, a chance to sign up for a Small Fruits newsletter to get even more information on blueberries (and other crops). I hope you all have a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. Hope to see you soon.

## Annual Blueberry Education Workshop

The Mississippi State University Extension Service will be hosting an online workshop for blueberry growers in 2021. The date and time is still to-be-determined.

Right now things are in the planning stages with more information to follow. IF you have suggestions for speakers please let me know.

If you have received this newsletter via email, you will get notification of the workshop details. The workshop will also be advertised via other outlets as well. Stay tuned for more information.

## Sustainable SWD Management Team Webinar

Please join the members of the Sustainable SWD Management team for a 1 hour webinar highlighting what we've learned about spotted-wing drosophila populations, crop risk, pesticide efficacy, biological control, cultural & behavioral controls, and how to use this information to improve management.

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Dec 8, 2020 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: A decade of SWD: Lessons for management

Register in advance for this webinar:

[https://ncsu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_r\\_Q2ICTS2Wkf8UZmq4KIA](https://ncsu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_r_Q2ICTS2Wkf8UZmq4KIA)

Presenters include team members from Cornell University, Rutgers University, NC State University, Michigan State University, University of Maine, University of California, Oregon State University, Washington State University, University of Georgia, and USDA ARS.



**Join the Sustainable SWD Management Team  
December 8 at 12pm EST  
for a one hour webinar:  
"A decade of SWD: Lessons for management"**

Register in advance for this webinar:

[https://ncsu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_r\\_Q2ICTS2Wkf8UZmq4KIA](https://ncsu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_r_Q2ICTS2Wkf8UZmq4KIA)

We will highlight what we've learned about spotted-wing drosophila populations, crop risk, pesticide efficacy, biological control, cultural & behavioral controls, and how to use this information to improve management.

## Weed Management Practices and Novel Technologies Survey

Dr. Lynn Sosnoskie — Cornell University

Weeds can be a significant problem in berries, tree fruits, tree nuts, and vine crops (e.g. grapes, hops, etc.) especially after transplanting and during flowering and fruit and nut set. Herbicides are a primary tool for managing weeds, even though the evolution of herbicide resistance has limited the utility of many products and off-target movement can result in damage to trunks, shoots, leaves and flowers. Perennial cropping systems are exploring technologies such as automated harvesters and pruners, to reduce labor demands, and canopy sensing sprayers, to minimize the amounts of crop protection chemicals applied to shrubs, trees, and vines. Novel weed control tools that eliminate or reduce the need for herbicides are actively being developed for and marketed in the agriculture and horticulture industries. These new technologies could begin to play an increasingly large role in future crop production, particularly in high-value specialty crops that 1) have limited herbicide options, 2) are sensitive to herbicide injury, and 3) are heavily reliant on a labor market that is simultaneously growing more scarce and more expensive.

A team of weed scientists from UC Davis, Oregon State University, and Cornell are asking berry, tree fruit, tree nut, and vine crop growers to take 5 to 10 minutes and answer this short survey (link below) about your current weed management practices and your interest in novel technologies, like vision-guided sprayers and cultivators, and electric, steam, and pressurized water weeders. This will help us plan research and extension projects that will address stakeholder concerns regarding the future of weed management.

There's always a chance that we forgot to include some amazing tools that are emerging on the horizon; please feel free to e-mail Lynn Sosnoskie at [lms438@cornell.edu](mailto:lms438@cornell.edu) and let her know what you think the future of weed control will look like.

Thanks for your time. We appreciate your support of weed science research.

Survey link: [https://cornell.ca.l.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bEpfAijoP7puQDP](https://cornell.ca.l.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bEpfAijoP7puQDP)

## “New” Exobasidium Control Product

Eric Stafne — MSU Extension

After many months of going back and forth with numerous people, I was finally able to twist enough arms to get the product Sulforix, a product of Miller Chemical, labeled for use on blueberries in Mississippi. Prior to this year the product was available but not labeled for use in Mississippi. It is an alternative to lime sulfur which is difficult to apply and caustic.

Research in Georgia has shown Sulforix, when applied as a dormant spray, to be very effective in reducing the presence of exobasidium symptoms. One or two applications prior to budbreak may be all that is needed; however, follow-up applications of Captan may also be necessary in areas where the disease is persistent.

The 2020 Southeast Regional Blueberry Integrated Management Guide (<https://smallfruits.org/files/2020/02/2020-Blueberry-Spray-Guide.pdf>) has detailed information on timing and rates of application.





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## Small Fruit News and New Podcast

The Fall 2020 issue of Small Fruit News, the electronic quarterly newsletter of the Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium includes information on a variety of topics (horticulture, production, insects, diseases, weeds) on blueberries, caneberries (blackberries/raspberries), grapes, muscadines, and/or strawberries.

Please consider not only subscribing to the newsletter ([subscribe to the electronic newsletter](#)) but also passing information about the newsletter on to other interested parties.

This issue of the newsletter can also be downloaded [printable PDF](#).

If you like the PDF format and would like to continue to see a printable version of the newsletter, please [complete this short survey](#) to let the editors know!

Another interesting development is the new Southern Fruitcast podcast done by Dr. Aaron Cato and Dr. Amanda McWhirt, both from the University of Arkansas. If you are into podcasts then this is a good one for fruit growers of all kinds (plus I am one of the guests!). You can find it here: <https://www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/crops-commercial-horticulture/horticulture/southern-fruitcast-podcast.aspx>



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