

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

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The Northwest Center for Small Fruits Research

2021 Quarterly Newsletter

Vol 02



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UPDATE FROM THE USDA

BY INGA ZASADA, USDA-ARS RESEARCH LEADER AND PLANT PATHOLOGIST

It has been a busy few months since the last NCSFR newsletter. Notable happenings include:

- Five new USDA-ARS Horticultural Crops Research Unit scientists have started in their new positions. All of these positions are part of NCSFR:

Dr. Claire Luby – Research Geneticist (blueberry)

Dr. Michael Hardigan – Research Geneticist (caneberry)

Dr. Dimitre Mollov – Research Plant Pathologist (virology)

Dr. Cedar Hesse – Biologist (bioinformatics)

Dr. Devin Rippner - Research Viticulture Soil Scientist

- These folks will be out and about in the small fruit community. Please take a moment to introduce yourself and learn about their science.
- Stay tuned for 2 more scientists positions which will be hired by USDA-ARS later this year one focused on precision viticulture and the other in weed management in small fruit crops.

We completed the first peer-review process of submitted research proposals. A big thanks to all of the reviewers who read, ranked, and discussed the proposals – this would not be possible without their service. We welcome feedback about this process and how it can be improved – don't hesitate to [contact us](#).

I recognize how difficult this past year has been for the small fruit community between COVID restrictions and the recent heat dome. I hope you are all hanging in there. I look forward to seeing all of you at what I hope will be an in-person NCSFR meeting in December 2021 in Corvallis, Oregon.



Update from the Northwest Berry Foundation

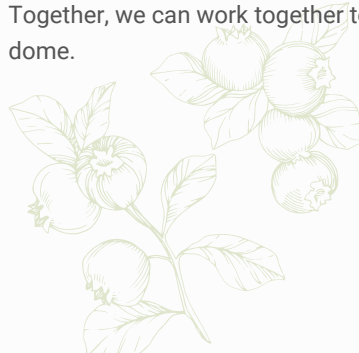
BY ELISA FORD, NORTHWEST BERRY FOUNDATION

As berry harvests are drawing to a close and grape harvests are on the horizon, our community is facing significant challenges.

Droughts and high temperatures have made Summer 2021 a challenging season. Now more than ever, sharing information about trends, new research, and regional conditions is critical to the future success of the small fruits industry.

We cannot predict what the next year, or the years to come, will hold, but we can prepare with irrigation strategies and breed plants that weather colder winters, and hotter, drier harvest seasons. The NCSFR, along with our partners, understands the need for innovation. Stakeholders are already talking about shifting research priorities so more research can focus on current trends. We encourage all industry to provide their input as changes to [priorities](#) happen this fall/winter.

Together, we can work together to thrive; rain, shine or heat dome.



Funding Updates

2021 NCSFR APPLICATIONS REVIEW ONGOING

The NCSFR proudly presents 2021's funded projects. Projects were funded based on industry driven research priorities. For a list of new and continuing research

[CLICK HERE](#)

Industry Updates

This year's funding priorities reflect the changing landscape for growers, including several studies on new viruses, persistent insect issues, weeds, and other vectors that threaten plants and hinder harvests, with a study regarding the recent fungal cane blight, Blackberry Collapse of particular note. Another study regarding the optimizing of wine grape watering scheduling, reflects the drier conditions that grape growers have been facing in recent years.

FACT SHEETS

The following NCSFR research factsheets are geared towards applicable summer/early fall seasonality of industry work. Take a look:



Demetre Mollov, Virologist



Devin Rippner, Research Viticulture Soil Scientist



Michael Hardigan, Caneberry Geneticist



Claire Luby, Blueberry Geneticist



Cedar Hesse, Biologist

ANNOUNCEMENTS

On Friday, June 25th, the Pacific Northwest endured four days of record-breaking temperatures that endangered small fruit crops throughout the region. With highs reaching 117 F in some areas, growers, processors, and commissions alike are assessing the damage and preparing for the future should the heat return.

VIEW ARTICLE

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EVENTS

December 2021 NCSFR Conference location: Corvallis, Oregon.

The NCSFR invites you to attend the Northwest Small Fruits Research Conference at the LaSells Stewart Center in Corvallis, OR. Mark your calendars for Dec. 13th-15th, 2021. This event will also be hosted online for guests who wish to attend virtually.

To book a hotel room, [click here](#). More details to follow.

The Northwest Center for Small Fruits Research partners with industry and land grant universities in the Pacific Northwest region to make the most efficient use of areas of expertise, research dollars, and direct stakeholder input to collaborate on research projects. Using several areas of research expertise throughout the Pacific Northwest allows greater impact which helps strengthen the small fruits industry. Priorities are addressed across commodities to solve regionally specific problems. For more information or feedback please contact:

info@nwberries.org