

Small Fruits in Georgia

- Grape
- Strawberry
- Blueberry
- Brambles
- Misc



Grapes

- European or wine grape – *Vitis vinifera*
- American or Concord grape – *V. labrusca*
- Muscadine grape – *V. rotundifolia*



Grapes

- Training and pruning:
- Head vs Cordon
- Spur vs cane



Grapes

- Young vines: cordon, spur



Grapes

- Pruning established vines: every year!
- Space spurs 6-12" apart on cordons, leave 2-6 buds



Grapes

- Muscadines: turn into kudzu if not pruned



Grape pollination

- Concord and vinifera grapes are self pollinating
- Muscadines: some varieties need cross pollination
 - Scuppernong, Fry, Noble, Nesbitt, Jumbo, Hunt
- Self-fruitful: Carlos, Cowart, Dixiland, Southland



Muscadine pest management

Black rot, bitter rot	Fungicide	Spray post bloom (black), preharvest (bitter)
Angular leaf spot	Fungicide	Spray midsummer
Grape berry moth, June beetle, grape curculio	Insecticide	6-8 weeks pre-harvest
Grape root borer	Mound soil 1' on trunk in early June	Remove mound at thanksgiving

Strawberry

- Herbaceous perennial
- June-bearing and Everbearing types
- Annual hill vs matted row culture
- Many pest problems
- Frost prone



Strawberry

- Buy bare-root or "plug" transplants from *northern nursery source*
 - Anthracnose!
- Plant in Sept (annual) or Feb (matted row)



Strawberry

- Annual hill or "plasticulture"
- Commercial and PYO production
- High yields, good quality, avoids many pest problems
- More expensive and time consuming



Strawberry

- Annual hill or "plasticulture"



Strawberry

- Matted row (bed)
- Processing or backyard
- Yield & quality decline each year
- More pest problems
- Less expensive and time consuming



Strawberry

- Matted row (bed)



Strawberry pest management

Botrytis rot or gray mold	Fungicide	Spray as growth commences through harvest; spraying for this eliminates need to spray for other fungi
Strawberry weevil (clipper)	Insecticide	Spray prior to and just after bloom
Weeds	Hand pull in matted, or use landscape fabric in annual hill	All the time!
Soil fungi, root rots	Cultural controls	Solarize soil in summer; use sandy, light, well-drained soil in bed

Blueberry

- **Rabbiteye** – *Vaccinium ashei*
- **Northern Highbush** – *V. corymbosum*
- **Lowbush** – *V. angustifolia*
- **Southern Highbush** – hybrids of *V. corymbosum* and southern species



Blueberry

- Low maintenance
- Minimal pruning or training
- Minimal pests
- Need cross-pollination
- Need acidic soil (pH = 4.5) with high organic matter
- Need special fertilizer (ammonium sulphate)
- Benefit from mulch



Blueberry

Pruning:

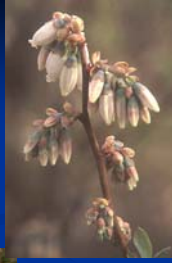
- Remove flowers in first year
- Cut out 1 old cane per year at maturity, and allow 1 new can to replace it



Blueberry

Pollination:

- Rabbiteye – long bloom period; use 3 different varieties for best results
- Southern highbush – 2 varieties OK
- Northern highbush – self fruitful



Blueberry soil management

- Soil test site
 - Low Ca, pH of 4.5
- Dig large hole, back-fill with composted organic matter (pine bark, peat, leaf litter)
- AVOID nitrate forms of N fertilizer
- Apply Sulfur if Fe deficiency occurs (yellowing of uppermost leaves)
- Use azela or rhododendron fertilizer (ammonium sulfate)



Blueberry pest management

Botrytis rot and mummy berry	Fungicide	Spray from budbreak until first bloom, only if a problem previous year
Cranberry fruit worm	Insecticide	Spray just after bloom
Weeds	Heavy, organic mulch	All the time!
Leafminers, blueberry maggot, other insects	Insecticide	Spray if needed in summer through harvest

Most years, you won't need to spray

Brambles

- Members of the genus *Rubus*; blackberries, raspberries, black raspberries, and hybrid berries
- Blackberries best for GA; all raspberries more suited to cooler summers



Blackberries

- Low maintenance
- Thornless, high quality, adapted varieties
- Moderate pruning or training
- Minimal pests
- Self-pollinating
- No special soil or fertilizer, but benefit from mulch



Blackberries

- Brambles have biennial canes
 - Primocanes and floricanes



Blackberries

Erect and trailing types:
Only trailing types need a trellis



Blackberries

Pruning or training:

- Topping
- Thinning primocanes
- Dead floricanes removal



Blackberry pest management

Anthracnose	Fungicide	Spray from budbreak until first bloom, <i>only on susceptible varieties</i> (thornless = resistant)
Leaf and cane spots, rusts	Fungicide	Spray from budbreak until first bloom
Weeds	Heavy, organic mulch	All the time!
Strawberry weevil, Red necked cane borer, other insects	Insecticide	Spray if needed from bloom through May

Most years, you won't need to spray

Figs

- Great fruiting ornamentals
- Almost no maintenance
- NOT COLD HARDY



Figs

- *Do not use California types*
- Common figs: 'Brown Turkey', 'Celeste', 'Alma', 'LSU Purple'