

North Mississippi Fruit and Vegetable Newsletter

June/July 2016



Dr. Jeff Wilson, Regional Horticulture Specialist

Summer has arrived and it has been hot and dry. I have visited with many of you at your farms and also at a few Farmer's Markets. We have had a busy year here at NMREC with numerous research projects ongoing. I will discuss a few of them here and add pictures. Please remember that you can contact me or anyone on our MSU list if you ever need assistance. You can also follow us on Twitter or visit our Facebook page (North Mississippi Horticulture).

Orchard Demonstration/Teaching Project: Eleven different fruit crops with numerous cultivars of each were planted this spring. We installed blueberry, blackberry, raspberry, muscadine, grape, peach, apple, pear, plum, persimmon, and pecan. We plan to add more plants in the future (Pictures 1&2). We also installed a blueberry research project that will begin next spring.



Leaf Lettuce Heat Stress and Nitrogen Study: Two lettuce varieties were planted late and treated with different levels of urea nitrogen to determine yields for growing late spring lettuce crops. Data and results will be available later this year. (Pictures 3&4).



Watermelon Frost Protection Study: Watermelons were planted and treated with 3 levels of frost protection blankets covering the rows. Melons were ready before July 4th in all treatments. Data and results will be available later this year. (Picture 5, 6 & 7).



No-Till Cover Crop Study: Cover crops were grown during the winter and then crimped at our field day earlier this spring. Watermelon and Sweet Potato will be planted in late June. Data and results will be available later this year. (Picture 8&9).



There were also studies conducted on Strawberry and Kale varieties last fall and this spring (Picture 10&11). Results of these will be presented later this year or at next winter's conference.



UPCOMING EVENTS

We will be hosting another field day this fall showing our cover crop studies and their results. More on this field day will be coming soon.

July 21 & 22 -Oxford, MS - The Mississippi Agritourism Association Summer Meeting and the workshop 'Growing your Brand for Mississippi Agritourism and Local Foods Producers' is coming soon. You can call 662-234-3031 and tell them that you are with the MS Agritourism Association. Registration form and agenda can be found at the link below. The cost is \$50 and needs to be paid to the MS Agritourism Association. <http://gcd.msucare.com/calendar/growing-your-brand-marketing-tools-ms-agritourism-and-local-foods> Forms and checks can be mailed to this address: Charlotte Adkins, 373 Hwy 364, Booneville, MS 38829 (Agenda is Attached).

OTHER NEWS

The **2016 Southeastern U.S. Vegetable Crop Handbook** is online for easy access for you and your clientele. It can be found at: <http://www.thepacker.com/guides/Pest-production-guides>. The online version may be quicker for you to find answers on culture and pest management questions than the printed book.

MSU-ES Contact info: Below are the contact names and numbers that are directly related to the association and your production issues. Please start with your local county Extension agent to help find answers to your questions. They are capable of handling your request and have access to all of our resources

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