North Dakota State University Extension

Yard & Garden Report

July 20, 2020 Vol. 8, No. 3

A Better Blueberry

North Dakota is a terrible place to grow blueberries.

Our soils are too alkaline, our winters are too cold and our climate is too dry. Blueberries cannot survive the rigors of North Dakota.

Don't despair—we have found something better! It's a blue honeysuckle called haskap. Haskaps thrive in the Northern Great Plains. Millions of haskap shrubs have been planted in the Prairie Provinces of Canada.

Haskap fruits are larger and sweeter than blueberries. The flavor is absolutely delicious with essences of blueberry, raspberry and grape. They are great for fresh eating, making jams and jellies, baked into pies or made into wines.

There are three groups of edible blue honeysuckles. All are superhardy and have no major pest problems. The first group came from Russia and is often referred to as *honeyberries*. Cultivars include Blue Velvet™, Blue Moon™ and the Sugar Mountain® series. Russian honeyberries ripen earliest (mid-June) and tend to be tarter.

The second group, with a mix of Russian and Japanese ancestry, has created a lot of excitement in the north. Researchers in Saskatchewan have released varieties known for large, plump, oblong berries. Cultivars include Aurora, Borealis, Indigo Gem and Tundra. These ripen in late June.

The latest introductions of this program are Boreal Beauty, Boreal Beast and Boreal Blizzard. They bloom later in spring, which may lead to more reliable and higher yields.

The third group of honeysuckles has pure Japanese ancestry. These have rounder berries, less foliage (making harvesting easier) and an upright plant habit. Cultivars include Maxie™ and Solo™ (shown) of the Yezberry® series. These haskaps were developed by Dr. Maxine Thompson from Oregon and ripen in early July.

Kathy Wiederholt, the Fruit Project Manager for the Carrington Research Station, has been working with Dr. Thompson to identify selections suitable for North Dakota. Kathy provided a tour of her work last week at the station. You can watch it at https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/CarringtonREC/field-days/Northern%20Hardy%20Fruit.

Lastly, here are a few quick tips on successfully growing this crop: Two compatible cultivars are recommended for production. Plant in a sheltered area; brisk winds will discourage pollinators and cause fruits to drop. Netting is essential—birds will desire these fruits as much as you do. More information on this crop is available at honeyberryusa.com.

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Plant Health Care

Landscapes

Tree Suckers in Lawns

Tree suckers sprout from roots. Aspen, poplar, birch, plum and chokecherry are notorious for this habit. We can mask the appearance of these suckers by mowing regularly, but in summer the suckers are more visible because they grow faster than the lawn. The simplest and best strategy is to prune these suckers off at the base. Do not use herbicides if the sprouts are coming from a desirable tree since the herbicides can move to the tree. Sprays of NAA (Sucker Punch, Sucker Stopper) can suppress sprout growth.

Ash Plant Bug

Bugs pierce and feed upon sap in leaves, creating tiny yellow spots. Leaves may appear scorched. Established trees tolerate feeding and treatments are rarely needed.

Heat Scorch

Sweltering temps can cause leaves to scorch along edges. Newly planted trees are especially sensitive. Irrigate deeply when soil is dry. Bark mulching will conserve moisture.

Honeylocust Plant Bug

Tiny green bugs pierce and suck sap out of leaves, creating yellow spots. Leaves become twisted. Mature trees can usually tolerate this feeding, and no treatment is needed. In severe cases, insecticides may be used to kill the bugs during bud break in early spring.

Mossy Rose Galls

Tiny wasps laid eggs on the rose plant in spring, triggering the development of these galls. Larvae are developing inside the structures. The galls cause minimal harm to the bush and can be left alone. If removed, do so before new wasps emerge from the galls in early spring.

Dull Mower Blade

Dull mower blades will shred, not cut grass leaves. Damaged plants will be more susceptible to injuries and grow slower. Sharpen blades or replace every year; more often if necessary.

Field Bindweed

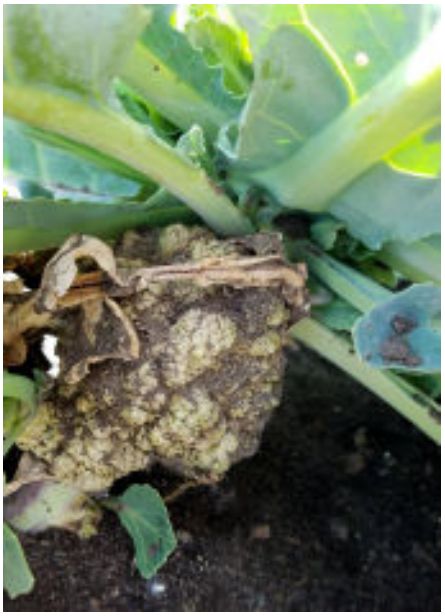
This perennial has spade-shaped leaves and white or pink blooms. Its deep roots make pulling difficult. Spray with a herbicide containing dicamba and/or quinclorac in September.

Slime Mold

Moldy spores from thatch will splash onto grass blades. A jet spray of water will dislodge the mold, and the mold will break down in dry weather. Raking helps. No chemicals are needed.

Plant Health Care

Fruits and Vegetables



Club Root on Cabbage

Plants are stunted, wilt easily and may have yellow leaves. The roots have swollen, distorted "clubs" (shown).

Infected plants should be buried on site. Clean and sterilize tools to prevent spreading the fungus outside the garden. Do not plant any members of the cabbage family (broccoli, cauliflower, kale, kohlrabi and radish) in the garden for at least 5 years. Control weeds over this time.

Colorado Potato Beetle

Spinosad (Entrust, Colorado Potato Beetle Beater), neem oil or pyrethroid sprays are most effective when pests are young. Pick larvae (top photo) or adults and throw in a pail of soapy water.

Blooming Onions

An onion plant forms a bulb to feed its *seeds* (not *hungry people*). Once it blooms, food is channeled out of the bulb toward the seeds. Harvest the onions promptly. The bulbs will not store well.

Tomato Flower Drop

Blossoms fail to set fruit under extreme temps, drying winds or drought. A series of day temps above 85°F or night temps above 70°F can cause drop. Bean and cuke blossoms are less sensitive; pepper blossoms are more sensitive.

Cabbage Worms, Loopers

Moths lay eggs on cabbage and broccoli. Eggs hatch into larvae that create tunnels. Spray with *Bacillus thuringiensis* while caterpillars are small. Carbaryl, pyrethrin, pyrethroids or spinosad are used on mature caterpillars.

Fabraea Leaf Blight

Dark purple spots appear on pear leaves and fruits. Defoliation may occur. Rake fallen leaves. Prevent infection with sprays of captan or sulfur in early spring when leaves emerge. The long-term health of tree is rarely affected.

Lace Bugs

Pests pierce leaves, sucking sap, creating yellow spots. Black droppings are evident. Adults are 1/4-inch-long with flat, lacy wings. Plants tolerate feeding and treatments are rarely needed; a jet spray of water will knock off nymphs.

Credits

Photos were made available under Creative Commons licenses specified by the photographers. **Page 1:** Proven Winners. **Page 2:** eXtension; Anitha Chirumamilla, NDSU; Karla Ryan (2); Tom Kalb, NDSU; Sara Clemens, NDSU; Tom Kalb, NDSU; Anita Gould, www.flickr.com/photos/anitagould/103717626/; Kendall Eraas. **Page 3:** Rachel Wald, NDSU; Anita Gould, www.flickr.com/photos/anitagould/1233459615/; scarabaeus_58, www.flickr.com/photos/7142613@N03/3012233338; Steve Miller, www.flickr.com/photos/smiller999/17536591752/; Pudelinchen via Pixabay; Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado St. Univ., Bugwood.org; Margrit, www.flickr.com/photos/ 27126314@N03/3791962615/; K. Peter, Penn State Univ. Extension, extension.psu.edu/plants/tree-fruit/diseases/pear-diseases/fabraea-pear; David Cappaert, Bugwood.org; Paul Bachi, University of Kentucky Research and Education Center, Bugwood.org.

Written by Tom Kalb, who expresses gratitude to the Horticulture/Forestry Team for their contributions to this report.

Weather Almanac for July 12–18, 2020

	TEMPERATURE[1] July 12–18				RAINFALL[1,4] July 12–18		2020		GROWING DEGREE DAYS[1,5] July 12–18		2020	
Site	Avg	Norm	Max	Min	Total	Norm	Total	Norm	Total	Norm	Total	Norm
Bottineau	66	68	83	49	0.05	0.60	6.48	8.92	96	109	1049	995
Bowman	67	70	94	44	0.01	0.50	5.40	8.11	102	123	981	970
Carrington	70	70	90	55	2.25	0.79	6.46	9.86	117	122	1134	1082
Crosby	64	67	86	45	0.53	0.68	6.62	7.81	89	102	954	901
Dickinson	68	69	94	47	0.32	0.62	4.83	8.93	107	117	1070	978
Fargo	73	71	91	57	1.56	0.64	8.94	9.88	138	132	1310	1174
Grafton	70	68	88	55	1.34	0.59	13.07	9.22	120	108	1170	1019
Grand Forks	71	69	89	56	0.90	0.72	8.72	9.16	127	114	1198	1046
Hazen	67	71	92	48	0.73	0.58	8.92	9.02	103	126	1093	1112
Hillsboro	72	70	93	55	1.52	0.79	8.89	9.80	130	121	1227	1096
Jamestown	70	70	93	55	0.60	0.80	4.67	9.41	116	124	1119	1071
Langdon	66	66	83	53	2.97	0.75	8.95	9.62	95	96	1010	851
Mandan	69	71	94	50	0.00	0.76	4.63	9.10	115	126	1148	1050
Minot	67	69	84	50	0.46	0.58	6.28	8.97	99	113	1040	966
Mott	68	70	93	47	0.00	0.51	6.14	8.58	103	124	1050	1029
Rugby	67	68	87	50	2.08	0.79	6.34	9.68	101	108	1058	1006
Wahpeton	71	72	91	55	1.01	0.75	10.40	10.27	127	132	1251	1228
Watford City	68	70	90	47	0.23	0.63	5.60	7.81	107	118	1055	997
Williston	68	72	91	48	0.39	0.59	3.81	7.43	103	131	1079	1142
Wishek	71	69	92	54	0.44	0.59	4.88	8.40	123	114	1079	958

DAYLENGTH (July 20, McClusky, ND)[2]

Sunrise: 6:05 AM Daylength: 15h 25m

Sunset: 9:31 PM Change since July 13: –14m

LONG-TERM OUTLOOKS[3]

July 25–29: Temp.: Above Normal; Precip.: Above Normal

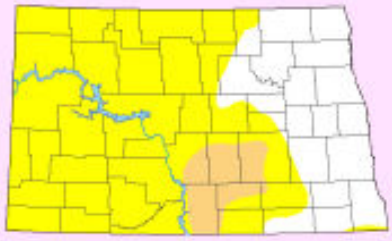
July 27–Aug 2: Temp.: Above Normal; Precip.: Above Normal

[1,2,3] Sources: North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network, www.sunrisesunset.com, and National Weather Service, respectively.

[4,5] Rain data begin April 1. GDDs for garden vegetables are not available. GDD data in this table are for corn, which responds to temperature as most vegetables grown in gardens. Data begin May 1 with base minimum and maximum temperatures of 50 and 86°F, respectively.

Drought Watch

Conditions are improving across the state. Only 7% of North Dakota is in drought, an 11% decrease from last week. Wetter-than-normal conditions are expected in western North Dakota during late July/early August. The month of August is expected to be wetter than normal throughout the state. Source: Drought Monitor and Adnan Akyuz, State Climatologist.



July 14, 2020

Moderately dry: *72% of state.*

Moderate drought: *7% of state.*

Severe drought: *0% of state.*

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