

Aronia Update – 2014

This was a cool, long growing season. We have never before seen this amount of fall leaf color in aronia, though I knew it was possible. It was a pleasure to spend the last days of the season working in the orchard.



There were pear slug sawflies and lacebugs eating leaf surfaces again this year and they were controlled with one application of spinosad in July. I did not see any fruit damage that could be attributed to spotted winged drosophila.

Summer was dry again. There were more rain events and a higher total than in 2013, but the amounts of each event were smaller and may not have reached the roots very well. The berries started to color around August 12th and harvest proceeded on September 11th. The time between blossom and harvest was 96 days – about average.

The harvest was reduced as compared to the past two years; there were just fewer clusters on each plant. Individual berry weight was larger than in the last three years, yet the berries had a lower pH and higher acidity.

Each year we have seen berries that stay a reddish color and don't ever ripen. This year, we only found a handful on one of the seedling shrubs that is nearest to a bit of late summer shade. But, its neighbor shrubs are in the same conditions and it was only seen on the one shrub.

	°Brix prior to harvest					Harvest Date	Total Harvest (pounds)	'Good' Berries (grams)	'Bad' Berries (grams)	% 'bad'	Weight of 10 Berries (g)
	8/25	9/2	9/5	9/8	9/10						
Nero				17.2	17.1	9/11	16.8	--	--	--	11.5
RT Seedling				16.4	16.8	9/11	29.6	--	A handful	--	10.6
RT Select		14.0	15.0	17.0	16.7	9/11	28.9	--	--	--	11.1
Viking	13.4	14.2	15.1	16.6	16.1	9/11	19.1	--	--	--	10.5
McKenzie				15.1	15.8	9/11	22.5	--	--	--	12.9

Juice pH	2012	2013	2014
Nero	3.31	3.19	3.23
Raintree Select	3.32	3.25	3.24
Aronia seedling	3.29	3.22	3.22
Viking	3.28	3.23	3.23
McKenzie	3.35	3.28	3.24
Galicjanka			

Titrateable Acidity (%)	2012	2013	2014
Nero	1.54	1.47	1.64
Raintree Select	1.43	1.47	1.62
Aronia seedling	1.52	1.51	1.69
Viking	1.56	1.52	1.70
McKenzie	1.46	1.43	1.48
Galicjanka			