

Live from Spain

GPG Blueberries & Blackberries

Jamie Petchell

Jamie and Soufiane recently toured a number of berry growers around the Huelva area in Spain. These growers are producing a range of the GPG varieties with production in both soil and substrate systems.

Of particular note at the moment are the blueberry cultivars from The University of Georgia. The early type, Tropical Blue, is proving to be an industry leader for its outstanding combination of earliness, large fruit size, firmness and flavour. In addition, yields are at the leading edge of commercial varieties and growers are expecting the crop to harvest over a short window, reducing labour costs. Following on and in the next harvest window will be Maverick and Gladiator, both now excelling in Spain. They are showing analogous traits to those observed in other hotter climates around the world. Maverick is already well-renowned after it displayed “El-Niño resistant” properties in Peru this season.

The Maverick plants in Spain are now loaded with large-sized fruit that will ripen during February. The Gladiator plants are of excellent quality with flowers and green fruit now developing to produce as Maverick crops start to reduce. Gladiator is well-appreciated for its very large, flavoursome berries.

In addition, they got to see the latest plantings of Von blackberry. These were established with long canes at the beginning of January and the plants are growing vigorously with excellent bud-break...

The first berries are expected in March, with the harvesting expected to extend into May.

The berry future continues to look very bright for these shining stars within the GPG genetic portfolio, so stay tuned for more updates.



IP Update

Iulia Negoita

We're kicking off this PBR update in the GPG Times with some excellent news from CPVO and the PBR grant for UCD Finn and UCD Mojo in the European Union. Various raspberry cultivars from James Hutton have been registered on the national list in Serbia (Skye, Glen Mor, Glen Dee) together with some blueberry cultivars from North Carolina State University and Oregon Blueberry Farm; Pinnacle and Titanium and MegasBlue respectively.

We are also delighted to announce the PBR filing for Tropical Blue in Morocco which was submitted end of January.



Commercial registration of the 5 UCD strawberry cultivars has progressed well in South American territories: Brazil, Argentina and Colombia. We have been advancing with setting up the DUS trial arrangements for the Misses series blueberries from University of Georgia in Chile and with another variety from the same breeding program to be filed for PBR by end of this month.

Further, there has been lots of activity on the raspberry side, where we are advancing the filings for the James Hutton genetics in Morocco, Canada, Mexico, Peru and Turkey and expecting to complete the PBR and NL filings, where needed, very soon.

Next on the agenda is another variety from the University of Georgia, Sweet Duchess and PBR filings to be completed in a range of South American territories: Chile, Ecuador and Uruguay. We will also be looking at the new 5 strawberry varieties series from University of California, Davis for additional filings.

PBR (Plant Breeders Rights)
DUS (Distinct, Uniform and Stable)

Asparagus Season

New Asparagus Season Getting Underway

Jamie Petchell

The northern hemisphere asparagus season is currently in its early stages in warmer climates before other areas make a start later in the spring. It is with renewed optimism that growers and marketers approach the new harvest after several challenges in the recent past. At GPG, we are looking forward to seeing increased crops from our warmer climate adapted varieties such as Patron, Early California and Pacific Summit as they have been planted on larger scales. As we move deeper into spring, traditional outdoor crops will be harvested in temperate and cooler regions. Our variety portfolio is well-inured to these climates too, particularly the "Guelph" hybrids, such as Guelph Equinox and Guelph Millennium.

Overall, there is increased interest this season in seeds of all our varieties. One recent highlight has been the official registration of Guelph Equinox, Guelph Eclipse and Guelph Millennium in Ukraine. This has been the culmination of many months of hard work from our partners Av Liht in Ukraine as well as Fox Seeds and The University of Guelph in Canada.

Here's to an excellent season ahead and we look forward to sharing further updates soon.



Excitement is brimming in Latin America...

Rupert Hargreaves

Argentina has long been a major strawberry-growing country in South America. This is for both fresh market production and processing. In addition to strawberry fruit production, there has been an established strawberry nursery industry for many years. Most of the strawberry plant nursery industry is based in Patagonia where there is an abundance of water and natural chill units which are required by the plants pre-harvest. The strawberry plants from Patagonia are important for the national strawberry producers of Argentina and in addition to this for many years have been exported in volumes to Brazil, Colombia, more recent times Peru, Ecuador and Venezuela too. Of course, there is nursery production in many of these countries too, especially Chile.

The Latin American market has been dominated by varieties from the University of California Davis to the tune of approximately 90%. The buoyant and expanding strawberry market has been built on varieties such as Albion, San Andreas and Fronteras some of which are now 20 years old.

Recognising the importance of strawberries to Argentina, it was no surprise I received a fabulous reception from major strawberry producers, leading plant nurseries, marketers, industry scientists and national government officials during a trip in January. This culminated with a presentation evening hosted by Laureano Delarmelina whose company is licensed by GPG in Argentina for the new replacement University of California Davis varieties. The presentation was given to a large audience in Coronda, one of Argentina's major strawberry-growing regions.

Laureano Delarmelina talked about the importance and benefits to the Argentinian strawberry industry of the new varieties from Global Plant Genetics / University of California Davis and the overwhelming support he is receiving from growers for the opportunity they have to gain access to new modern genetics.

I presented an overview of Global Plant Genetics with a focus on the size and abilities of the University of California Davis strawberry breeding program, its breeders, gene pool, projects and employed science.

There was great excitement from the audience to hear about improved fruit quality, shelf life, disease resistance and yield. The first 5 varieties UCD Victor, UCD Warrior both short-day types and the 3 day-neutrals UCD Royal Royce, UCD Valiant and UCD Moxie received much interest. Discussions on published data demonstrating new day-neutral varieties achieving over 4kg per plant certainly gained the attention of the growers and indeed government officials.

Currently, approximately 90% of Latin America is planted annually with University of California Davis cultivars. The genetics have a long track record of consistently performing well throughout each country. All early indications point to the fact the above varieties will be replacing the current and now somewhat dated varieties. Additionally, there is a pipeline of a further 7 varieties which will add more value to the industry. The excitement for the future is almost stratospheric.

At the end of the week, I was awarded a certificate by the Mayor of Coronda as a person of specific international importance to the region which I very gratefully received on behalf of the team at Global Plant Genetics.

We look forward to continuing to work with our licensed partners in South America and delivering improved genetics and support to the strawberry industry. We will continue to expand the market for University of California strawberry varieties while working with the finest nurseries in Latin America.



Skye

Large and Sweet Berries that Double-Crop

Skye is a mid-late autumn, primocane raspberry, highly productive and with high potential to double crop with exceptional fruit quality. The colour is a mid to light red which is maintained after picking. It has great size, shape and flavour. The vigour of the variety is considerable and the canes grow to a good height. The combination of this vigorous growth habit and fruit quality make it adaptable to both summer and autumn harvesting so the variety can be readily double cropped.

Skye has a low chill requirement similar to Kweli and Imara. Plants produce tall, vigorous long cane with a short internode distance. Canes produce a high number of fruit/lateral which de-plugs easily. Skye shows promise as a double-cropping variety, producing consistently high-quality fruit with high yield potential in both crops. The combination of high yield potential and the ease of pick can contribute to reducing picking costs.

- 🌿 Mid to late primocane, starts cropping between Kweli and Kwanza
- 🌿 Long cane appears well suited to double cropping

- 🌿 Excellent feedback on fruit quality
- 🌿 Large fruit, highly productive, displayed well for easy picking



Licence Holders - Fruit Supply



Morocco

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Turkey

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Mexico

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Canada

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Morocco

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Skye

Licence Holders - Plant Supply



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Paradise Berry

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We are really impressed with the initial growth of the Skye canes. The early indications of bud break lead us to believe the forked will be strong and the first fruits have a high brix value. We look forward to showing growers the exciting potential we see.

Jamie Burnett

Paradise Berry Propagators -
Australia



Skye is adapted to two harvests per year in continental climates. This is as a result of the fact that it produces sufficient shoots with strong roots to afford both crops. In our climate, it is the only variety that can do this. The Skye raspberry variety has very strong root uptake and it is fast growing. The fruit quality of Skye is comparable to the best primocane types produced in Serbia."

Nebojsa Momirovic

Owner, Zeleni Hit - Serbia



Skye is a double-cropping primocane, with a later-season primocane crop. The high productivity and high yield potential come from a high number of laterals per cane, and a high number of fruit per lateral. It's very easy and quick to pick, resulting in a very good picking efficiency. Skye is sweet with low acidity, with more vanilla flavour. Skye has real consistent quality in both the primocane and long cane crops.

Nikki Jennings
Soft Fruit Breeder



Communications & Marketing

Welcome to part of the GPG TECHhub, where excellence in every step of our supply chain is our top priority. From nurseries and fruit growers to end consumers, our commitment is to provide high quality information and data to our licence and stakeholders, ensuring the optimal utilisation of the best genetics available.

In our latest edition of the GPG Times, we proudly unveiled the all-new TECHhub, a dedicated space designed to empower our community with valuable insights. Here's a glimpse into the exciting developments so far...

Von Blackberry Documents: Explore the intricacies of Long Cane production (Steps 1-5), In-Vitro/Tissue Culture Multiplication, Rooting Plants in Plug Trays, Tray Plant Production, Long Cane Nursery Production, and Cold-Storage. These documents showcase how imperative it is to have the best quality plant material to maximise the potential of the Von Blackberry and how to achieve the best quality long cane plants.

Von Best Practice - Fruit Harvesting Guide: Delve into our comprehensive guide, offering an in-depth exploration of fruit ripening stages. From full drupelets to bold colour, discover the optimum stages for maximum flavour and shelf life. Illustrated with images, this guide is an indispensable resource for Blackberry growers.

Long Cane Plants Ordering Timeline: For those venturing into Blackberry plantation, our TECHhub provides an ordering timeline for Long Cane Plants in Europe and North Africa. Taking you through the length of this process, when making sure plant material is of the best quality it could be.

Next up in the TECHhub, our GRN 1 & 3 New Generation Grape Rootstock: best practices and insights for optimising cultivation of mother plants optimising graft success, within these unrivalled nematode-resistant rootstocks.

The most recent, UCD Strawberry WhatsApp Channel: As a special feature, we have introduced a dedicated communication channel on WhatsApp for GPG Licence holders of UCD Strawberry varieties. This exclusive platform provides select individuals with valuable insights into UCD Strawberries, including production and growing systems, fruit load/production per plant, and general varietal updates.

And that's not all! Stay tuned for upcoming releases covering blueberries, raspberries and asparagus as we continue expanding our coverage within the TECHhub. We're excited about the ongoing rollout of the GPG TECHhub and look forward to empowering our community with knowledge, updates and expertise across our crop portfolio.



Berlin & Fruit Logistica

We had an excellent couple of days at Fruit Logistica in Berlin! As always, it was a busy schedule, lots of meetings and I was really grateful to have had the chance for all the face-to-face interactions. I enjoyed finding out more about the needs and vision of our breeders, licence holders and plant suppliers. Fruit Logistica proves to be a successful networking event and a huge opportunity to learn more about the industry's latest trends, innovations and developments, adding valuable knowledge to our business! A warm thank you to everybody we had the pleasure to meet, whether that was formally or informally. See you next year!

Iulia Negoita - GPG IP Protection Manager



The Berlin Fruit Logistica proved to be a tremendous success with a great deal of interest in GPG and our Berry Genetics. Connecting with both our old, and new customers is always good.

The strong interest that our berry genetics sparked from companies, worldwide, serves as a powerful motivator. It reinforces our belief that we offer the finest varieties of berries in the global market.

We are inspired to persist in our commitment to delivering excellence and innovation in the field of plant genetics. Thank you for being part of our journey.

Soufiane Lahtati
GPG Business Development
Manager Berries EMEA



Tropical Blue

Has Snowchaser finally been caught?

Soufiane Lahtati-Belkas

The early blueberry variety Snowchaser has been a benchmark for many years. A true success story for the breeders University of Florida. Blueberry growers in countries such as Spain and Argentina who are always chasing the early market have not only depended on Snowchaser but to a degree built their businesses and industries on the back of this variety.

So, it's hard to explain the excitement and enthusiasm within GPG and our client base at the rapid development of the new exceptionally early variety, Tropical Blue.

Tropical Blue is an exceptional evergreen variety. What's also super interesting is its apparent robustness offering consistently good results in each and every territory we take it to.

From a 9cm plant, a Tropical Blue is consistently producing 1.2kg per plant 8 months after planting and in its first full year 2.5 kilos per plant.

The fruit size is 16+mm with a firm texture, great flavour with a brix of 13.9, acidity average and a firmness exceeding 70.42. The fruit has been well received by shippers and retailers where its exceptional bloom and dry scar demonstrate further quality attributes.

With so many advantages this variety brings to the whole supply chain and ultimately the consumer, it really does feel like the snow is beginning to melt!



Tropical Blue

https://youtu.be/mvj8shx_c4k?si=UnATujKvZwNoi5zV

Click to play

MILESTONE EDITION OF THE GPG TIMES

Jamie Petchell

We're excited to reach this early milestone of the 10th edition of the GPG Times. At the outset, when we were planning its launch, our aim was to be different to the traditional business "newsletter", both stylistically as well as in terms of content. It is true to say that we have come a long way since its inception and we regularly talk to industry friends around the world who let us know that they read it and take an interest in the developments that it covers. We have plenty more ideas for continuous improvement in the near future and as ever, we welcome feedback and suggestions for inclusion going forward.

Eloise McDowell
Marketing & Communications

As we reflect on the GPG Times, from the 1st Edition to the present moment, the 10th Edition of the GPG Times, our hearts swell with gratitude for the support of our readers and business. From the very beginning, our mission has been to unravel the intricate progress and updates of our genetics to provide our readers with the berry sector's latest developments.

The journey has been one of growth, evolution, and continuous learning. We extend our appreciation to our dedicated readers, whose enthusiasm and engagement have fuelled our passion for delivering insightful content. It is your curiosity and commitment that has allowed us to explore the delivery of our realms of genetic information, sharing valuable insights and keeping you up to date with the dynamic advancements in the berry sector.

We have taken a moment to reflect, therefore we would like to take this opportunity to reach out to our readers and offer the opportunity to have a highlight within the following editions of the GPG Times. We would also love to hear from you if you have feedback or would like to see something specific within the GPG Times - please email eloise@globalplantgenetics.com.

Looking forward, we are excited to continue this journey, inspired by the shared pursuit of knowledge and the ever-expanding horizons of genetic exploration within GPG, all over the globe.

Edition 3



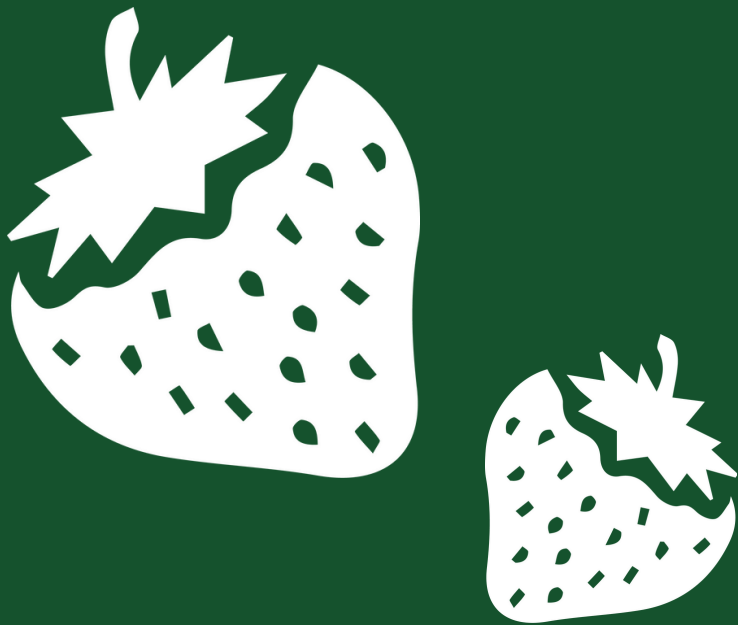
10th Edition



AND FINALLY...

Some strawberries, shaped like hearts were seen as a symbol of Venus, the goddess of love, in ancient Roman times.

Rupert Hargreaves



Connect with us!

