

Tropical Blue, Maverick & Gladiator

Rupert Hargreaves

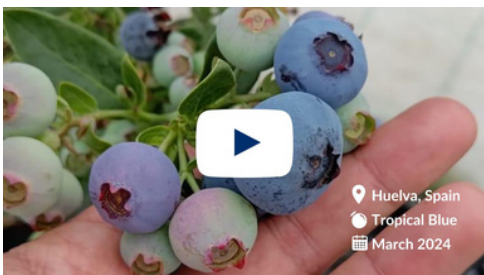
The blueberry team had a busy spring in the northern hemisphere looking at the new blueberry genetics from GPG. The standouts were Tropical Blue, Maverick and Gladiator, with Sweet Duchess producing some great flavour components. This great flavour trait in Sweet Duchess has also been experienced at trial sites in Mexico.

Tropical Blue looks like the preferred variety to replace the significant areas of Snowchaser still widely grown for its earliness in many parts of Europe. The fruit size, yield and flavour of Tropical Blue is a quantum leap ahead of Snowchaser offering growers and consumers a better alternative to the now-dated variety.

Maverick has been the talk of the town. Evergreen, very early, great and consistent fruit quality with exceptional yields in the first year of harvest. Yields repeatedly exceeding 4.5 kg's per plants and that's from 9cm plants. Clients travelled from all corners of the globe to see this as we wanted to let the genetics do the talking... Maverick is shaping up to be one of the most interesting varieties to enter the blueberry sector, in years.

Gladiator has been slightly behind in terms of our development program but rapidly became a shining star when people started to see and taste the fruit. Gladiator has been producing 18-22mm berries with perhaps the best bloom and flavour in the industry today. Growers and retailers have been staggered by the fruit quality.

Videos of all varieties can be found on our YouTube...



Of course next year we will see fruit of the next generation. Who knows how we will contain our enthusiasm and excitement then!

For any enquiries please email - rupert@globalplantgenetics.com or soufiane@globalplantgenetics.com

GPG bring new blackberry genetics to the market...

We are delighted to report that we have recently concluded a licensing arrangement for two new primocane blackberry varieties. The breeding programme is Niwa, based in Southern Poland. The agreement is for GPG to represent the self-fertile and thornless Maryna and Juhas cultivars in a range of international territories.

“Having first seen and tasted the Maryna and Juhas varieties last year, I was excited at their potential in blackberry growing climates where we operate. With the global blackberry sector that has almost doubled in size over the last 20 years, some would say in spite of the general varietal offer, there is now a great opportunity to speed this up. The consistent supply of a high-quality berry product year-round will only contribute to a larger slice of the berry cake for blackberries over the next few years. In my opinion, Maryna and Juhas have every opportunity to play an important role in these developments and we’re excited to see them across the world in the coming seasons.”

Jamie Petchell GPG



Bartek Danek, Director of Niwa, stated, “it has been important for our blackberry breeding efforts to develop primocane varieties. The global blackberry industry has been growing steadily for a number of years now and it is crucial that improved cultivars are released to help with this growth and to accelerate it even further. We are pleased to complete this agreement with GPG and we look forward to seeing the Maryna and Juhas varieties growing across the world in the next few years.”

Agnieszka Orzel, Breeder at Niwa, commented, “I have been working on primocane blackberries for many years now. It has always been important to me and the overall breeding programme that our first releases were of the best possible quality. In addition to the obligatory fruit yield and quality aspects, I have focused on high levels of self-fertility and thornlessness. As a result, I am confident that the Maryna and Juhas varieties can adapt very well to the important global blackberry growing regions. Self-fertility is oft forgotten in Rubus breeding but it can have a huge impact on primocane yields in warmer climates. From our initial results, we see that Maryna is better adapted to double cropping and that Juhas is more suitable for single primocane harvesting.”

UCD Strawberries

Rupert Hargreaves

A group of strawberry nurseries from Latin America were hosted by Viveros Los Olmos, Chile in mid March 2024. The 3 day program included presentations by Glenn Cole, Breeder UC Davis, Rupert Hargreaves, Global Plant Genetics, Thomas Pfeil, Viveros Los Olmos and Juan Ladron de Guevara, UC Davis Chile.

The keynote presentation given by Glenn Cole provided a detailed and informative technical update on short day varieties UCD Victor, UCD Warrior and the day neutral varieties UCD Royal Royce, UCD Valiant and UCD Moxie. Discussion also took place on the massive improvements being made throughout the breeding program in terms of improved yield, flavour and disease resistance. There was excitement about the 5 NEW UCD releases - UCD Surfline, UCD Monarch both short day and the day neutrals UCD Eclipse, UCD Golden Gate and UCD Keystone.



Following further presentations and discussions covering the activities of GPG, the nursery background, the professionalism of Los Olmos and the great strawberry project work being undertaken by UC Davis along side visiting strawberry fields, nurseries and packing stations.

During the nursery tour, Thomas and Uwe Pfeil along with their team, gave the group a very informative tour of their vast nursery company and of course a great focus on their strawberry nursery enterprise. The plant quality and evenness of the potted tip, raised plants was great to see. We then moved on to a number of field locations where potted plants from the previous season had been planted demonstrating fruit quality and yield that clearly showcased the impact these new varieties are about to have... Subsequently, it has been reported by Los Olmos, yields of over 70 tonnes per hectare have been achieved by UC Moxie in comparison to Monterrey at 50 tonnes. This is game changing for the strawberry industry.

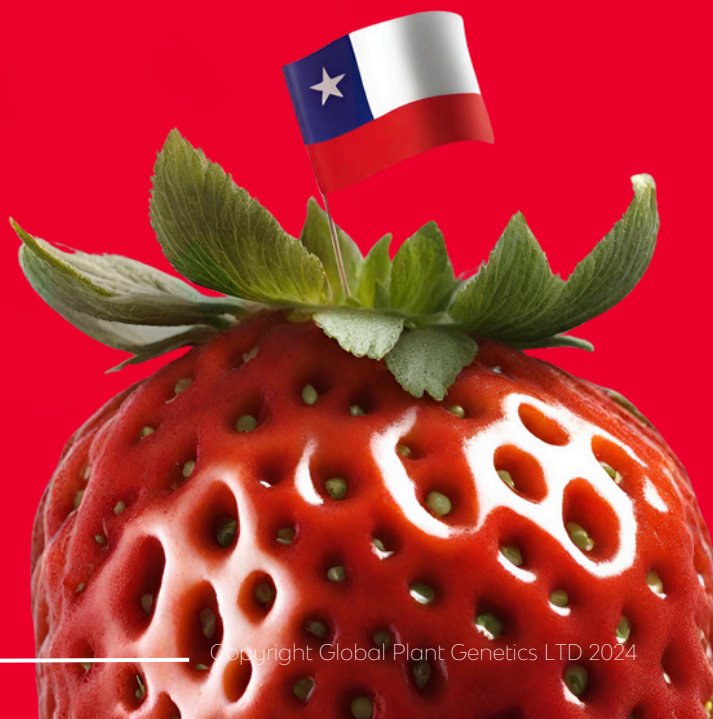


The final day we toured the highly impressive facilities of Comfrut, one of the world's largest processors and packers of berries.

There is much talk about the new UC Davis strawberry genetics in Latin America and throughout the rest of the world. With 60% of the strawberries consumed in the world, coming from UC Davis genetics it's clear to understand why the spotlight is on anything new from this world-leading programme.

Videos and interviews from Chile of all the varieties in production can be seen on our YouTube Channel.

<https://youtube.com/globalplantgenetics>



UCD Strawberries

LICENCE HOLDERS

UCD variety strawberry plants can be purchased from the following licensees, according to territory:



Egypt

nmoosilhi@mdgroup.com.eg



Jordan

atayeh@oceanside.jo



Australia

jack@jclmfarming.com.au



Argentina

ldelarmelina@hotmail.com



Chile

tpfeil@losolmos.cl



UK, EU, Morocco

contacto@maae.pt



China

chris.he@perfection.com.au



Australia

ian@redjewel.com.au



Australia

Andrew@ssr.farm



Australia

ddavies@tcsrgco-op.com.au



UK, EU, Morocco

arjona@medinagroup.es



UK, EU, Morocco

info@viveroscampinas.com



UK, EU, Morocco

info@viveroscarbonero.com



Turkey

ahmetyaltir@yaltir.com.tr

YouTube

Communications & Marketing

Welcome to the Global Plant Genetics YouTube channel overview, the go-to destination for all things related to our world-class crop portfolio, genetics and horticulture.

Join us as we provide a wide range of location updates, exclusive insights into crop varieties, detailed technical videos, and comprehensive overviews of various crop varieties.

Whether you're a researcher, a breeder, a grower, or simply passionate about berries and asparagus, our channel offers all the extremely valuable content to keep you informed and inspired. In addition, you will be able to keep up to date with our crop portfolio in action, from many different growing territories.

Subscribe now to stay up to date with the latest developments in the world of Global Plant Genetics...

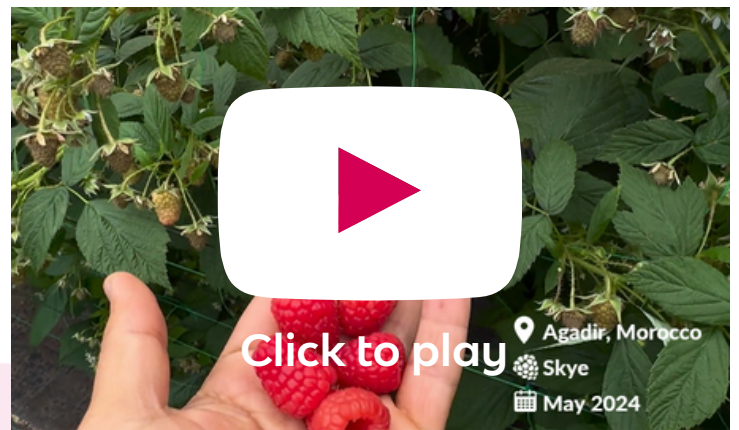
As we are on the topic of videos and YouTube exclusives... here is a GPG Times reader-exclusive video of SKYE Raspberry in Morocco...

Enjoy! P.S. Don't forget to subscribe to be notified whenever we upload a new video.



GPG Times Video Exclusive

<https://youtu.be/OYpDda6q99A>



Morocco

Soufiane Lahtati-Belkas

Relationships being one of GPG's core values, we try to visit all of our growing locations - and we have recently visited Morocco to see some of our licence holders and berry growers around the country, gaining first-hand glimpse of the remarkable performance of Skye Raspberry!

Not only does Skye grow great, due to its plants producing vigorous long canes which produce a high number of fruits/lateral, with huge volumes of fruit which are easy to pick, but the berries also look amazing, filling punnets all while tasting outstanding.

Skye also performs as a double-cropping variety, producing consistently high-quality fruit with high yield potential in both crops. This combination of high yield potential and the ease of picking can contribute to reducing picking costs.

Skye Raspberry is not only a hit in the consumer market but also great for growers, and with all of us who may have had a taster or two.



Skye simply is doing a premium job at producing premium berries, which will continue to sit well in the punnet throughout the supply chain all the way to consumers.

It's great to see Skye in action and capture all its amazing qualities and its significant role in the industry.

European Asparagus

Season 2024 To Date

Jamie Petchell

The 2024 asparagus season in Northern Europe can be characterised to date as one of changing fortunes. Much of this is down to climatic factors as ever with the asparagus crop. Record rainfall levels over the autumn, winter and early spring increased the risks of soil-borne diseases in both new and established crops. Then towards the end of March, temperatures were high, and harvests started with reasonable early volumes in certain territories. For most, this only lasted for a matter of days and cool easterly winds then contributed to lower temperatures across the northern part of the European Continent and as a result, yields and fresh asparagus supply dropped back to low levels.

Harvests began to pick up again towards the end of April and it seems that most growers are currently at higher production levels than at the same time in 2023. The forecast for the next two weeks looks relatively stable and so supplies should remain at consistently manageable levels through the peak of the season.

There has been an overall reduction in asparagus production areas on a global scale over the past five years. In some ways, this has helped with sales of the fresh product, and we have witnessed a relative return of confidence in new plantings over the past twelve months.



With a long-term crop such as asparagus, it is important to make long-term decisions in terms of production and marketing strategies. At GPG, we play our part in this process by helping growers and marketers to choose varieties that will contribute to the overall profitability and sustainability of the sector in terms of yields, spear quality and harvest timings.



We look forward to seeing a strong second half of the season for all involved in European asparagus production and marketing.



CIOPORA

GPG attends CIOPORA Annual General Meeting 2024

Iulia Negoita

Plant breeders and intellectual property experts convened in Marrakech this past April for the CIOPORA Annual General Meeting 2024, shaping the landscape of the global plant breeding community. Against the backdrop of Marrakech's vibrant culture, the conference provided a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange, networking and staying up to date with industry trends.

CIOPORA is the International Community of Breeders of Asexually Reproduced Ornamental and Fruit Varieties and brings together plant breeders, breeder associations, plant Intellectual Property experts and consultants, whose joint efforts are aimed at the development, improvement and harmonization of Plant Variety Protection systems worldwide.

As always, the presentations and discussion pannels were very insightful, providing practical guidance and valuable knowledge on plant variety protection and enforcement strategies, with interesting topics up for debate such as: New Developments in the EU and in the US, Morocco: From desert to blooming and fruity fields, Breeding in times of climate change and shift of production territories,

The use of Artificial Intelligence in plant breeding, Contemporary marketing and the influence of celebrities on sales of flowers and fruits, just to name a few.

The most helpful and debated topic of the Annual General Meeting was The Protection of New Plant Varieties and National Listing System in Morocco and having a handful of ONSSA representatives in the room and on stage, it proved to be very useful as there were a lot of questions to be clarified on this matter, underlining the huge opportunities and interest of the participants. In addition to the discussion, CIOPORA organised a field visit on the last day of the conference to the Regional Centre of Agronomic Research of Marrakech (part of INRA) which again was very helpful and provided an opportunity to understand all the stages of the National Listing system.

Attending the CIOPORA event was refreshing and insightful and having had the opportunity to connect with like-minded people, it fostered a sense of camaraderie and made the cultural exchange easier amongst the participants. It was also the perfect opportunity to stay in touch with various breeding programmes and IP offices we collaborate with across the globe, but also to create new connections and opportunities for our genetics.



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UNITING BREEDERS
PROTECTING INNOVATION

GPG

Blueberries & Blackberries continue to thrive in Spain

Jamie Petchell

I took a short trip to Spain at the beginning of May to catch up on the latest with our blueberry and blackberry genetics in the country. Together with Soufiane, we visited a number of growers in the Huelva region and saw commercial harvests of Maverick and Gladiator blueberries as well as Von blackberry.

At this point in the season, both Maverick and Gladiator are performing as expected as they follow on from the early variety Tropical Blue. Maverick is showing potentially game-changing yields for such young plants. Anticipated harvests are up to 4kgs per plant of uniformly large berries on plants undergoing their first commercial crops. Gladiator's exceptional fruit quality, a combination of size, crunch and firmness, is making it highly desired as it reaches premium brand levels with retailers.

The Von blackberry plantations in the region have mostly been established from potted long canes planted this past winter. I was very excited to report that its superb combination of exceptional fruit quality and yield is also being demonstrated here in Huelva. The berries are also very well-displayed, making it even more sought-after as picking costs can be reduced in comparison to other varieties.

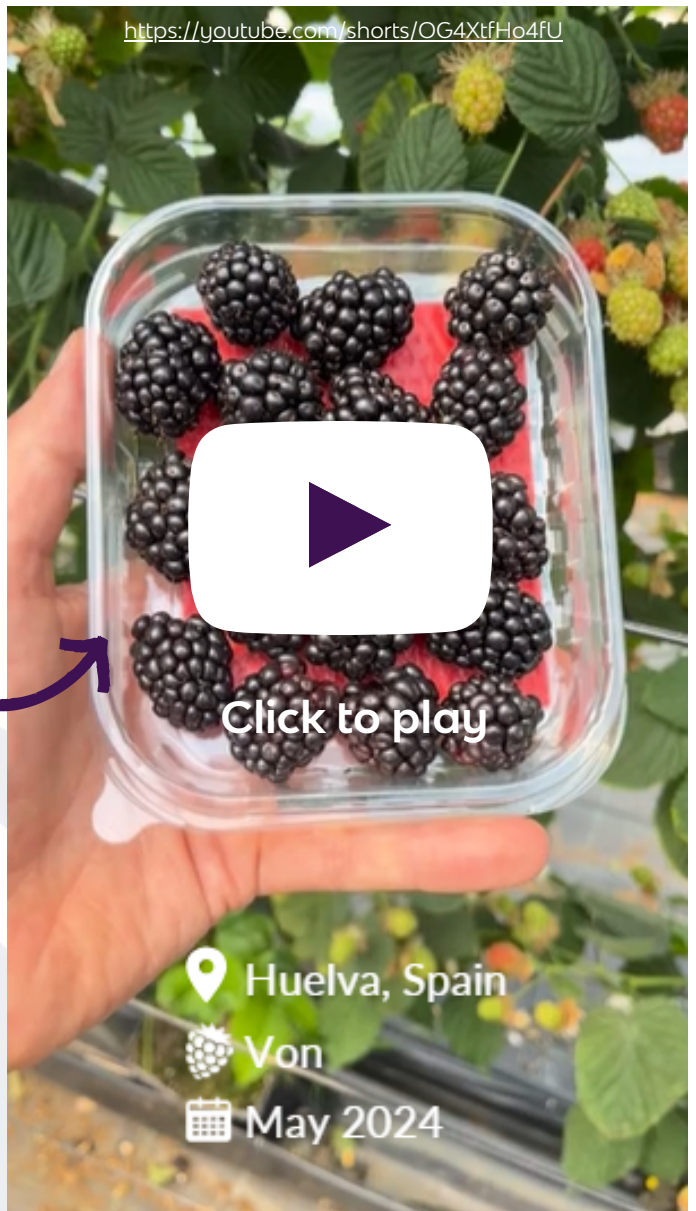
In addition, we were able to look into early-stage trials of new selections of blueberries established in the growing region. I'm excited to report that are a number of new lines showing further improvements in fruit quality and yield potential.

The GPG berry portfolio continues to deliver for growers and fruit marketers in warmer climates like those in Southern Spain and we're excited to see these developments continue in the near future.



GPG Times Video Exclusive

<https://youtube.com/shorts/OG4XtfHo4fU>



AND FINALLY...

Global asparagus production has fluctuated greatly over the past 4 decades. It has recently been reported that planted hectares peaked at 280.000ha in 2006 and again 2020, but since, the area has dropped back down to 190.000ha.

The semblance of good news is that returns per kg back to the grower are increasing and there is an expectation to see more production in the next few years.

Jamie Petchell

Connect with us!

