

# General Information

This guide is intended for commercial farmers to provide information on pest management practices for small fruit crops in New England. Both chemical and non-chemical pest control measures are suggested. Whenever possible, the use of integrated pest management (IPM) practices is encouraged. General concepts of IPM are described in the “About Pest Management” section of this guide. Contact your state small fruit or pest management specialists for details regarding specific crops.

All pesticides listed in this publication are registered and cleared for suggested uses according to federal and state regulations in effect on the date of this publication. Pesticide labels are constantly changing, however. It is still required that applicators read the labels carefully before application to be sure of restrictions and rates.

Trade names are used for identification only; no product endorsement is implied, nor is discrimination intended against similar materials.

The user of this information assumes all risks for personal injury or property damage. If the information in this guide does not agree with the current labeling, follow the label instructions. The label is the law.

**WARNING!** Pesticides are poisonous. Read and follow all direction and safety precautions on labels before using. Handle pesticides carefully and store out of reach of children, pets, and livestock. Dispose of empty containers immediately in a safe manner and place. Contact your state Department of Agriculture for current regulations.

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## Berry Crops at a Glance

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Below are some vital statistics relevant to several small fruit crops. Many factors including site suitability, time commitment and market strategies will have to be thoroughly researched before entering into a small fruit enterprise. Consult with local growers, Extension Specialists, and others to help determine the suitability of a small fruit enterprise. Books and guides can also be very helpful in answering questions about small fruit production. See the resource list at the end of this guide for some useful books and guides.

## Soil Fertility Management

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### Soil and Tissue Testing

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Soil tests provide the best way to determine lime and fertilizer requirements for phosphorus and potassium. Leaf tissue or petiole analysis is the best way to determine nutrient status for nitrogen and minor nutrients. With the information from these tests, the grower can make informed decisions about fertilizing and liming small fruit crops. This is important for cost effectiveness and to achieve optimum yield and quality and to safeguard water quality. Following is a list of soil test laboratories in New England. It is best to use local labs because they are calibrated for local soils and recommendations are tailored to New England conditions.

**Table 1.** General information for some small fruit crops.

	Strawberries	Summer Red Raspberries	Blackberries	Blueberries
Expected yield	10,000-20,000 lb/A	2,000-7,000 lb/A	3,000-7,000 lb/A	6,000-12,000 lb/A
Age to maturity	2 years	3 years	3 years	6-8 years
Life of planting	5 years	6 years or more	6 years or more	More than 50 years
Hardiness	-35°F	-20°F	0°F	-20°F
Optimal pH	5.5-6.5 (6.2)	5.8-7.0 (6.5)	5.5-7.0 (6.5)	4.2-5.2 (4.5)
Spacing	18" x 48"	2' x 8' to 3' x 12'	3' x 10' to 5' x 12'	4' x 10' to 5' x 12'
Plants/Acre	7,260	1,210-2,722	726-1,452	726-1,089

Source: Cornell University