

Blueberry Variety Trial Report 2007
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Two trials were evaluated this year for yields of marketable blueberries on 4-year-old plants. The Bellota location is on the east side of the county and has cooler evenings than the Roberts Island planting. Both locations experienced winter chilling hours in excess of 1000 hours this winter.

At the Bellota location, the replicated varieties should be representative of what a grower could expect to achieve in yields under normal conditions for plants in the ground 4 years. The observational plants at Bellota were not growing under optimum conditions so those plants were used primarily to evaluate the fruit for flavor and to record the timing of the harvest. The plants in Bellota are growing in a sandy loam soil mixed with a large amount of fir wood waste. The irrigation water is acidified to a Ph 5 with acetic acid.

At the Roberts Island location the observational varieties duplicate those planted in Bellota with the exception of the harvest being approximately two weeks earlier. The plants on Roberts Island are growing in a Sacramento clay soil mixed with a large amount of fir wood waste. The irrigation water is also acidified to a Ph 5 with acetic acid.

Other than weed seeds blowing into the plots and the constant threat of gopher intrusions, the only pests observed this year in Bellota were European earwigs that became established in the fruit bunches. If the earwigs were knocked from the fruit clusters onto the ground mulch, they were effectively controlled by an OMRI-certified bait containing spinosad. Some slugs appeared at the Roberts Island location and were controlled with the same bait that also contained iron phosphate. Birds were excluded in both locations with permanent netting covering a steel frame.

For the first time European honey bees were placed in close proximity to the research plantings. Last years poor production on the Earliblue variety can probably be attributed to the lack of pollination. Observations this year on the fruit yields and size indicate that the addition of adequate numbers of pollinators in blueberries can be beneficial. While some varieties may not benefit from additional pollination, it is a common practice in many of the blueberry growing areas of the county to keep 2-4 hives of honey bees per acre near the blueberries during the bloom period. Bumble bees are very effective pollinators of blueberries, but the species produced commercially, and used in tomato greenhouses, is not available for use in open fields in California.

BLUEBERRY BLOOM PERIOD 2007

SW of STOCKTON, ROBERTS ISLAND, CA

	FEBRUARY		MARCH				APRIL			
Weeks	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Earlyblue					XX	XX				
Spartan					XX	XX				
Santa Fe				XX	XX					
Emerald		XX								
Blue Crisp				XX	XX					
Duke						XX	XX			
Blue Crop						XX	XX			
Ozark blue							XX	XX		
Chandler						XX	XX			
Elliot							XX	XX		

XX FULL BLOOM

 BLOOM PERIOD



BLUEBERRY HARVEST DATE 2007

BELLOTA, CA Average of 3 replications

Variety	30-May	3-June	5-June	18-June	26-June	3-July	10-July	16-July	23-July	30-July	6-Aug	13-Aug	
Earliblue	Harvest	Harvest	Harvest	Harvest									
Spartan	Harvest	Harvest	Harvest	Harvest									
Bluecrop				Harvest	Harvest	Harvest	Harvest	Harvest	Harvest				
Chandler				Harvest									
Ozark Blue				Harvest	Harvest	Harvest	Harvest	Harvest	Harvest				
Elliot								Harvest	Harvest	Harvest	Harvest	Harvest	



BLUEBERRY HARVEST DATES 2007

BELLOTA, CA

OBSERVATIONAL PLANTING

Variety	Jun 3	Jun 12	Jun 15	Jun 19	Jun 26	Jul 3	Jul 10	Jul 16	Jul 23	Jul 30
BLUEGOLD	Harvest									
BRIGITTA				Harvest						
DARROW				Harvest	Harvest	Harvest	Harvest			
SIERRA	Harvest									
OLYMPIA				Harvest	Harvest	Harvest				
MISTY				Harvest	Harvest	Harvest	Harvest			
REVELLE	Harvest									



Mean No. Grams per Bush by Variety
Average of 3 Replications
4th Year in Ground - Bellota, CA 2007

Variety	Mean No. Grams
Earliblue	1726a
Bluecrop	1572a
Spartan	1504a
Elliot	1593a
Chandler	2359b
Ozarkblue	2888c

Means followed by the same letter are not statistically different from each other by the least significant difference, $\alpha = 0.05$

