

Horticulture Nova Scotia Berry Research Priorities for 2016 – 2017



As compiled by
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Horticulture Nova Scotia in conjunction with Perennia regularly administers a variety of research projects to assist farmers in exploring new varieties of crops, improving on existing crops, determining best management practices, and managing crop pests. Approximately every two years, berry and vegetable research priority selection sessions bring together Horticulture Nova Scotia members, researchers and other interested parties to determine what these projects should encompass. A survey was administered to the Horticulture Nova Scotia membership in March of 2016 to determine research priorities for each berry crop. A summary is presented below of the findings as determined by this survey and through discussion with the membership.

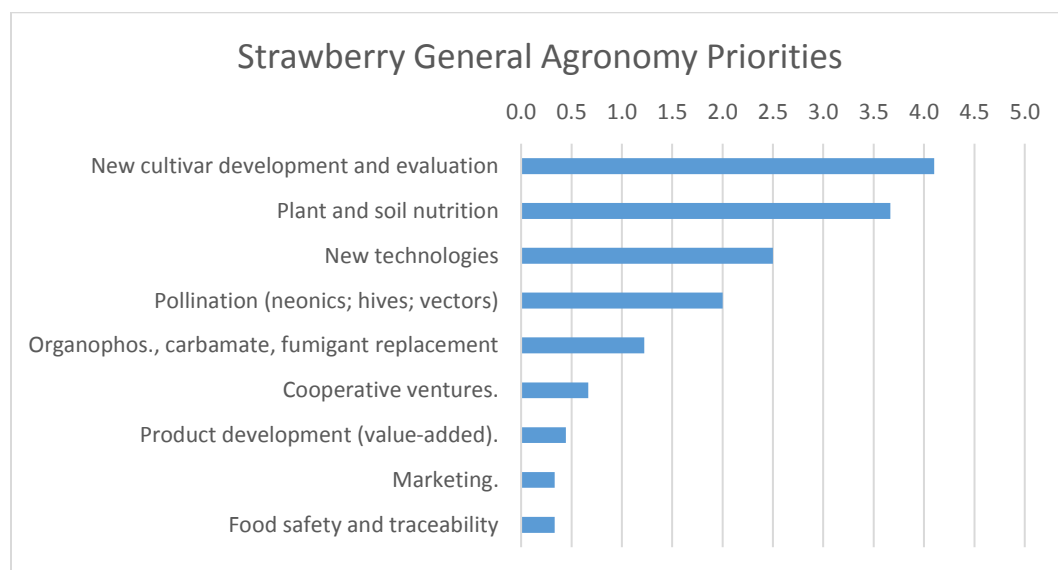
Methodology

Questions were formatted to determine needs and to address issues that pertain to each crop. Numerous research priorities were ranked by the membership of Horticulture Nova Scotia, with further priorities coming to light in subsequent discussions. For each response, the top priority was given a value of five, the second priority was given a value of four, the third priority a value of three, etc. and then divided by the number of respondents to that priority line item. Therefore, priorities given a ranking of 5 are the most urgent or pressing priorities, descending in value and priority from there. Where there were numerous priorities identified, the top ranked are displayed graphically, and other, lesser ranked priorities or priorities that came up in conversation are simply listed. A total of 10 Horticulture Nova Scotia members participated in the survey.

Strawberries

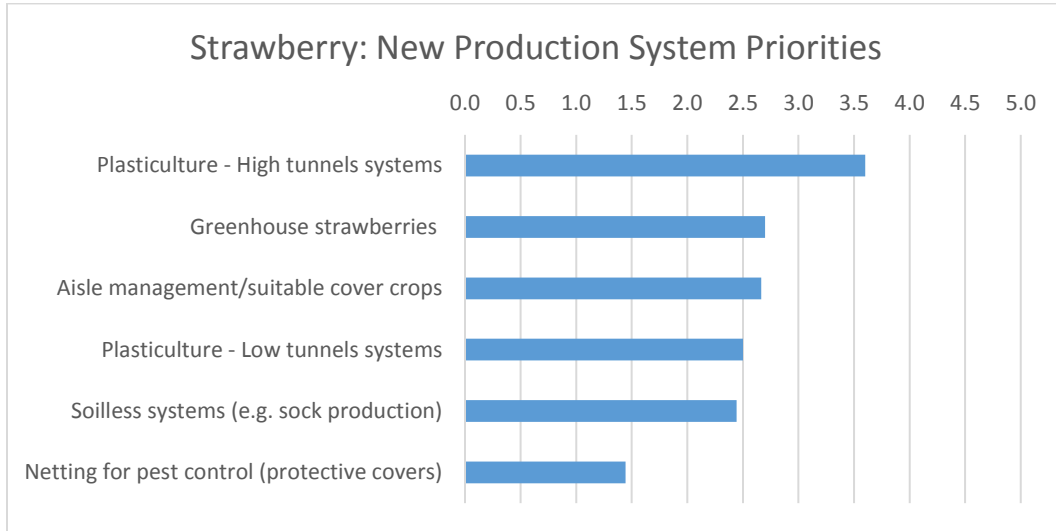
There are over 280 acres of strawberries cultivated by members of Horticulture Nova Scotia. The top research priorities for strawberries are:

Strawberries: General Agronomy

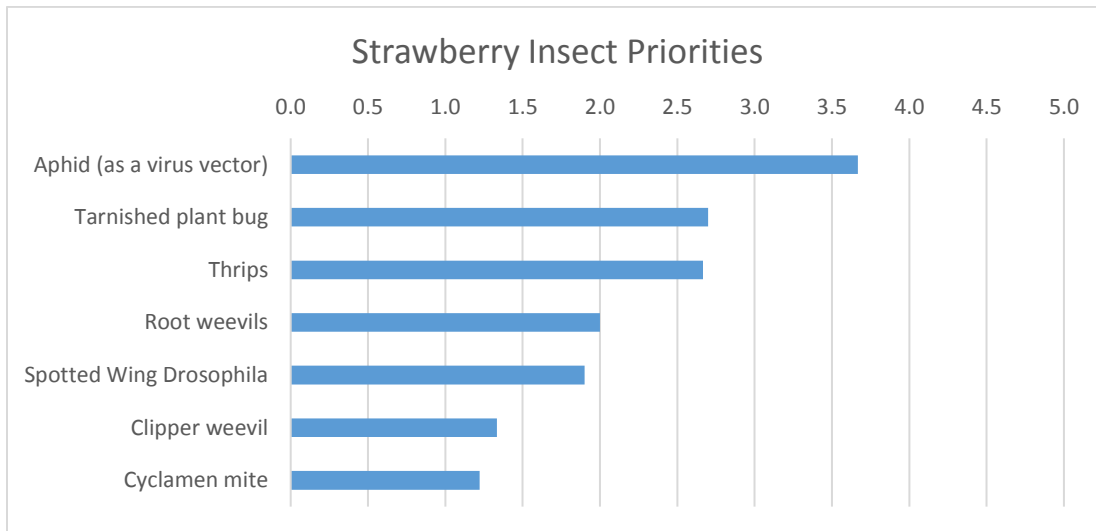


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Strawberries: New Production Systems

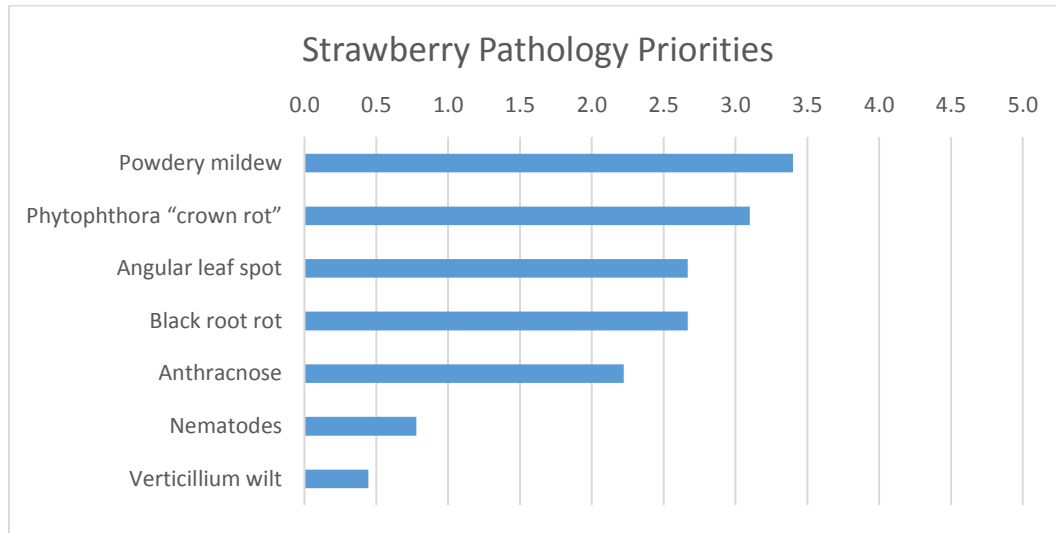


Strawberries: Insects

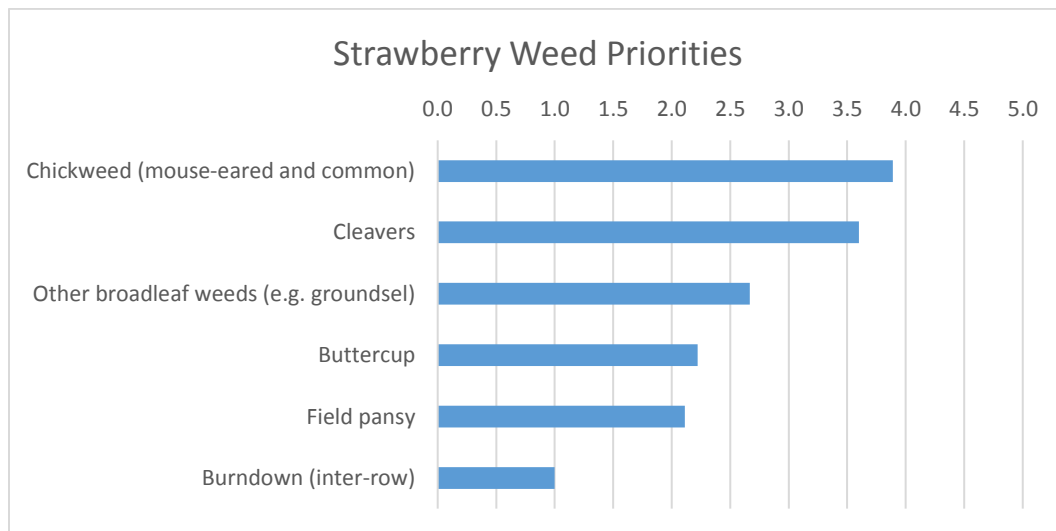


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Strawberries: Pathology



Strawberries: Weeds



Other strawberry research priorities mentioned in no particular order:

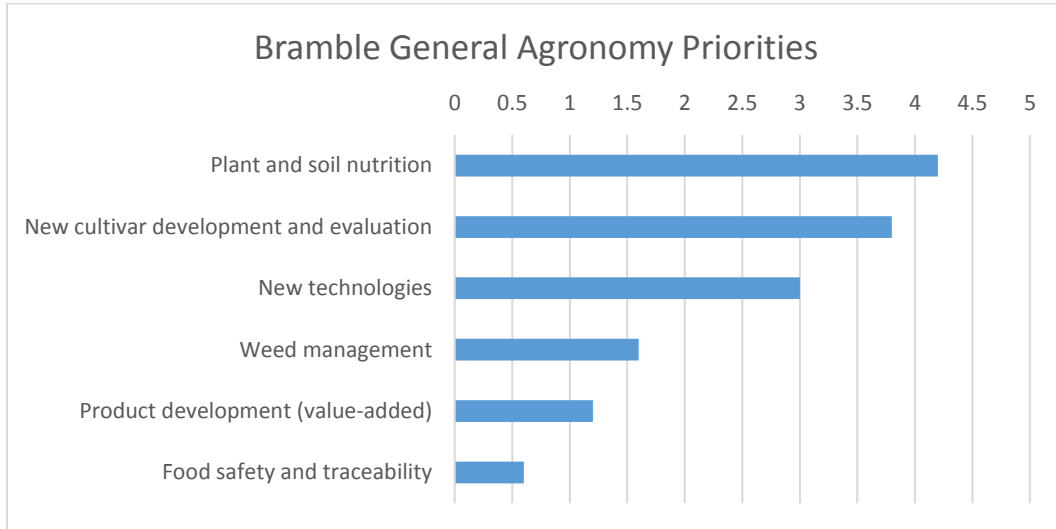
- Frost mitigation – new ways to prevent frost injury without overhead irrigation
- Organic production
- Soil biology
- Season extension
- Table top production system
- Bio-control of diseases and pests in high-tunnel and greenhouse environments
- Water management in plasticulture
- Wildlife management (racoons, deer)
- Botrytis (grey mold)

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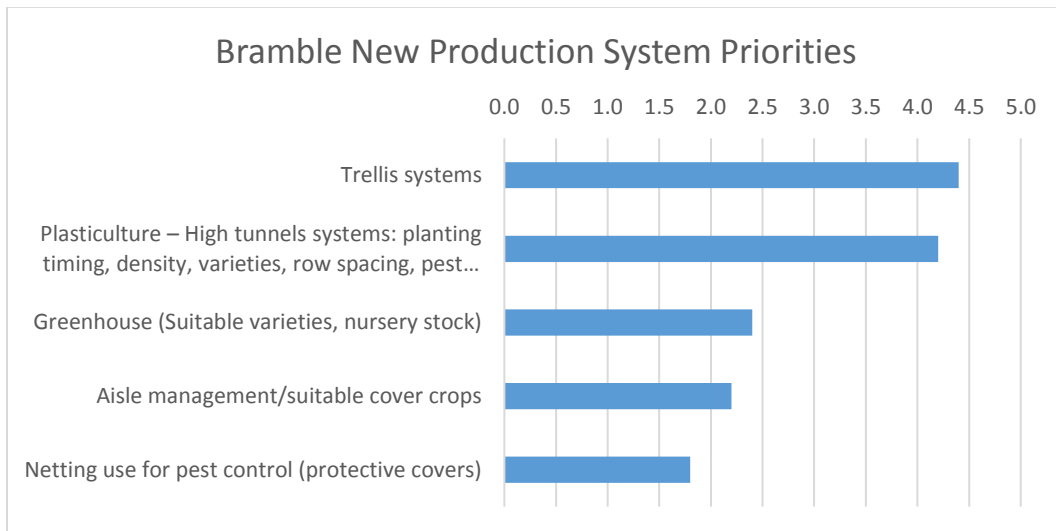
Brambles

There are over 20 acres of brambles grown by the membership of Horticulture Nova Scotia. The top research priorities for brambles are:

Brambles: General Agronomy

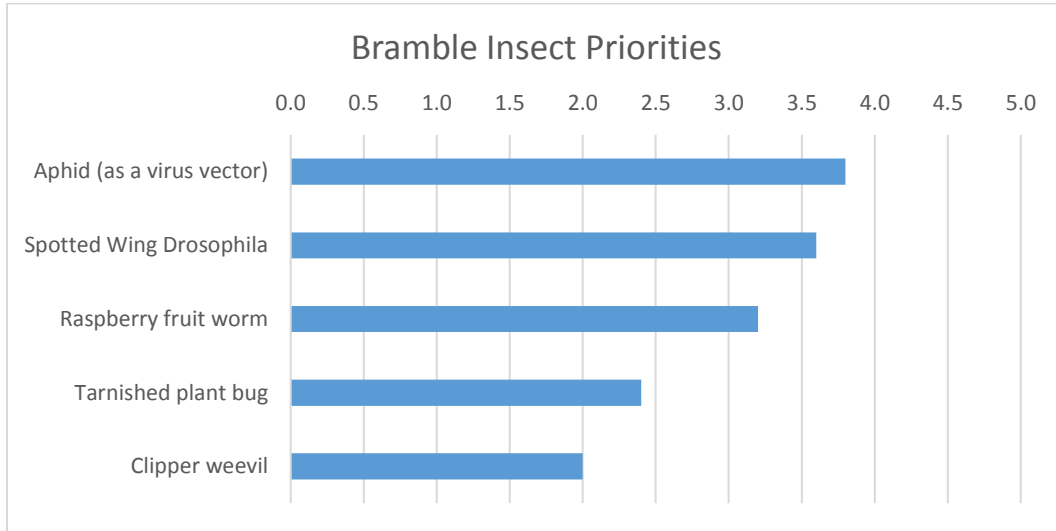


Brambles: New Production Systems

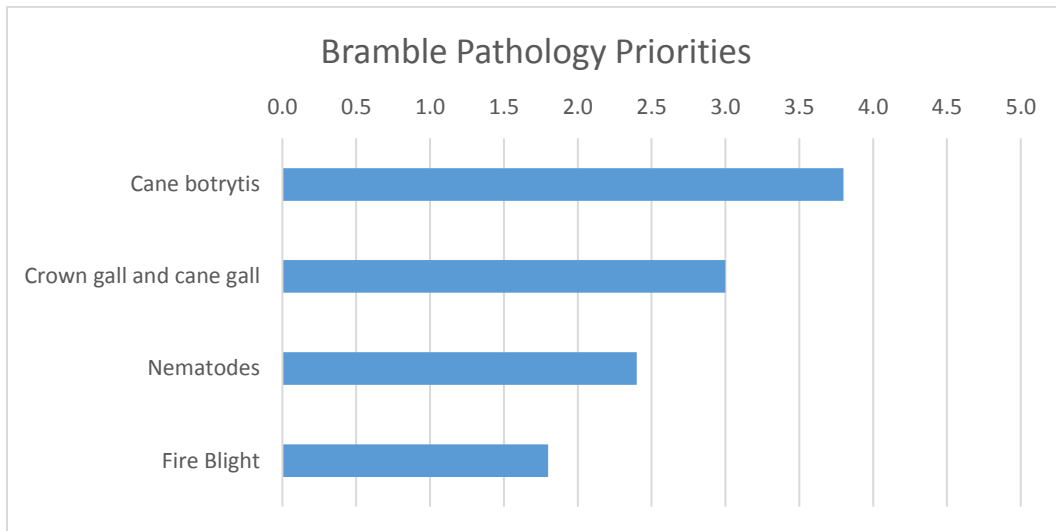


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Brambles: Insects



Brambles: Pathology



Other bramble research priorities mentioned in no particular order:

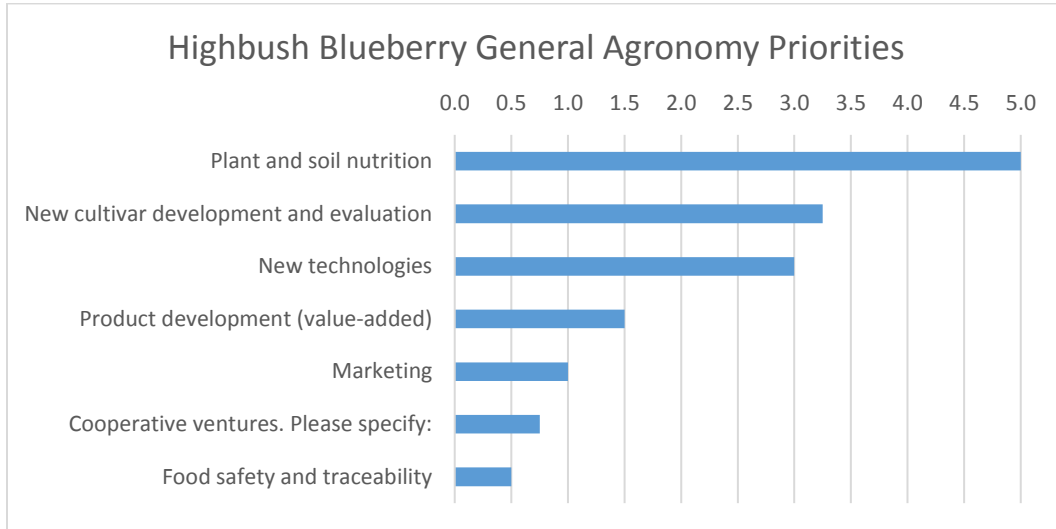
- Reduced use of herbicides (plastic mulch?)
- Organic production
- Canker

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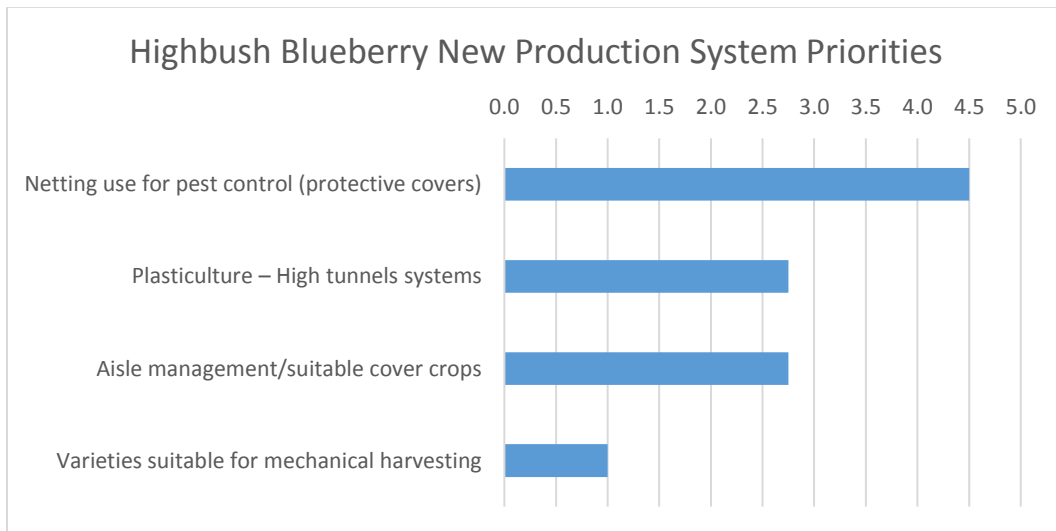
Highbush Blueberries

There are over 260 acres of highbush blueberries grown by the Horticulture Nova Scotia membership. The top research priorities for highbush blueberries are:

Highbush Blueberries: General Agronomy

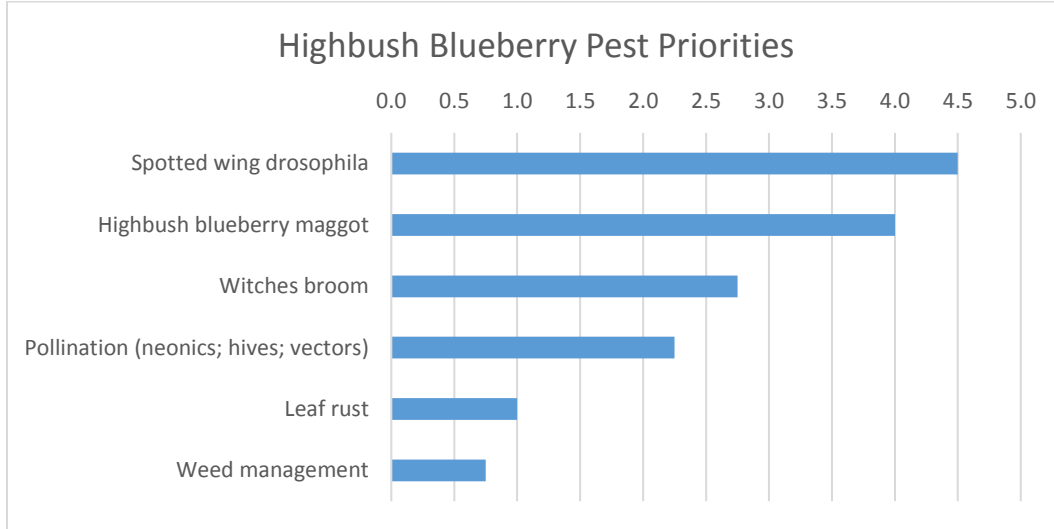


Highbush Blueberries: New Production Systems



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Highbush Blueberries: Pests



Other highbush blueberry research priorities mentioned in no particular order:

- Organic production
- Canker
- Wildlife management (racoons)

Other Berry Crops

There are numerous other berries being grown in Nova Scotia, including but not limited to: haskap, cranberries, grapes, currants. As their acreages continue to grow, so do the issues and potential research opportunities in these crops. A few of the priorities for these berries mentioned in the survey include:

Haskap – diseases, pests, pesticides, cane structure and nutrition

Cranberries – fruit rot

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This report was brought to you by:

Perennia:

Operational since 2001, Perennia (formerly AgraPoint) has a 31-member team including specialists with expertise in areas of horticulture, livestock, IPM, field crops, product development and commercialization, and food safety, as well as professional skills in such areas as facilitation, adult education, information technology and communication. The mission of Perennia is to help farmers, fishermen and food processors be prosperous and profitable. Perennia offers a wide range of production and development services to farmers, agri-businesses, co-operatives, industry associations, universities, and government. From its offices in Kentville and Truro, Nova Scotia, Perennia provides advice through workshops, field days, in-depth projects, and one-on-one consultations in person and by phone.

Horticulture Nova Scotia:

Horticulture Nova Scotia was formed in 1998 and is a not-for-profit association. Horticulture Nova Scotia works with other horticultural interest groups to further the needs and interests of the horticulture industry. Horticulture Nova Scotia aims to promote unity and cooperation within the research community and to facilitate the identification of research priorities that will benefit the horticulture industry.