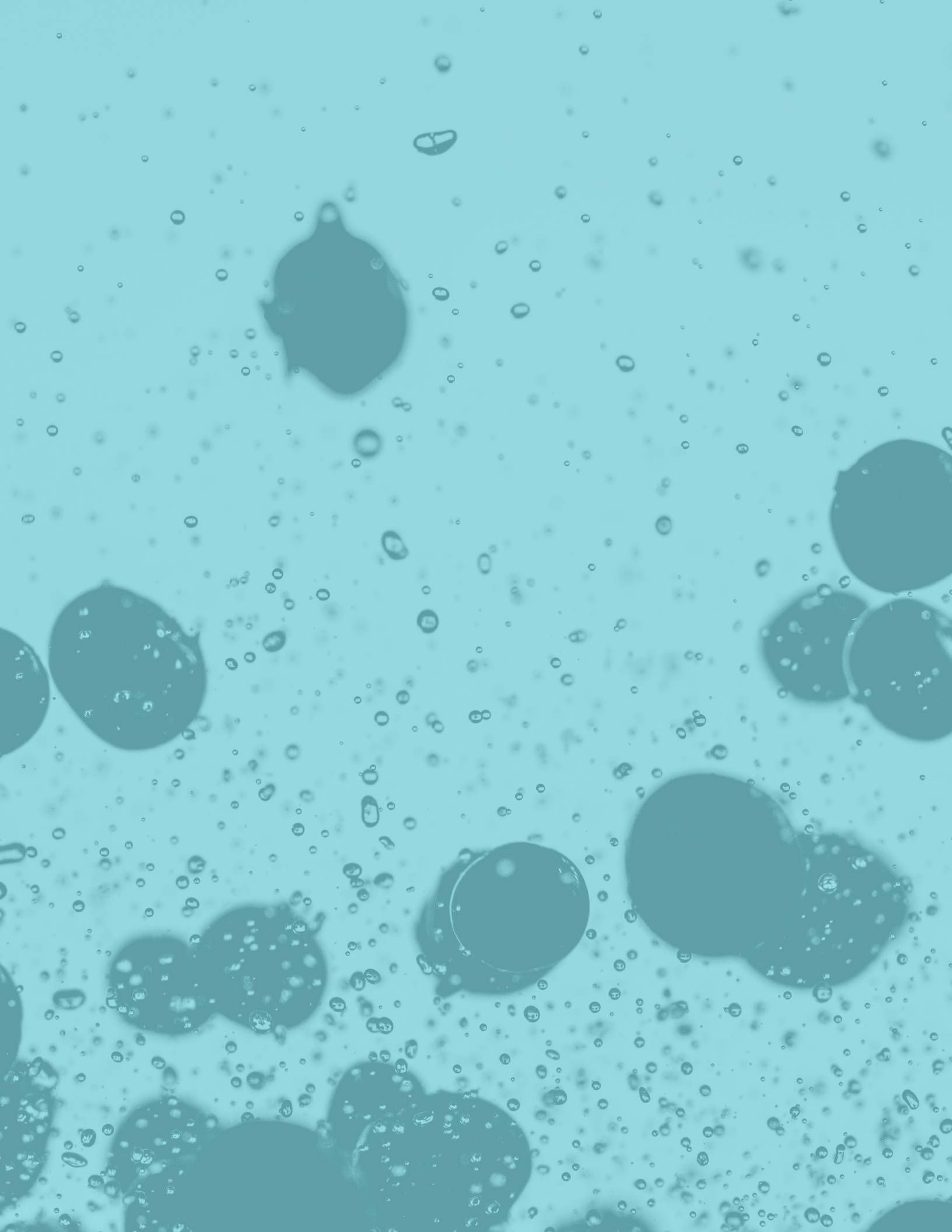
2022-23

BC BLUEBERRY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT



2022 | 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

*Over the past year, the **BC Blueberry Council's** Committees and Board of Directors have worked on a number of key issues impacting the BC Blueberry industry. See below for a **summary** of our latest work.*

MARKET ACCESS AND PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

The two key projects under the **AgriScience** and **AgriMarketing** programs were completed this year on March 31st. AgriScience funding supported a number of projects, including the breeding program, over the past five years. While AgriMarketing funding was used for export market development, our main work focused on consumer-targeted campaigns to increase demand in Japan, Vietnam, India, S. Korea, and New Zealand.

Now more than ever, the Council is focused on securing and maintaining access to world markets to move volumes and remain competitive. We hope to gain new ground in the Indo-Pacific region and have hired Export Consultant **Thomas J. Payne** to coordinate our efforts. Tom has 35+ years of experience in market development and outreach, and extensive knowledge of the worldwide blueberry industry.

In addition, we are partnering with the **United States Highbush Blueberry Council** (USHBC) to put on broad-based promotional campaigns in Canada and the US, championing the **"Grab a Boost of Blue"** message. Stay tuned for more news on this exciting collaboration.

For more information on our marketing initiatives domestically and abroad, please see pages 9-13. In 2023, the Council is again seeking funding to continue export market development and research.

INDUSTRY SUPPORT

Over the past year, the Council continued to work with growers who were impacted by the **November 2021 floods**.

The impacted growers recovered to a certain extent, but those with major home damage received limited compensation to repair their homes and experienced heavy personal and financial losses.

Furthermore, **Scorch Virus** management remained top of mind.

The Council, with the provincial government's financial assistance, retained personnel, namely our **Scorch Virus Education Officer**, to work directly with growers to mitigate the continued spread of the virus. Included in these initiatives was free Scorch and Shock testing for growers, for up to 30 samples per farm. Support continues this year and the sample allowance has increased to 50 per farm.

FUNDING PROGRAMS

To assist growers in restoring fields through removal and replanting, the Council advocated for government assistance. Recently, the provincial government announced the **Perennial Crop Renewal Program**.

We are disappointed to learn that **Stream 2** (the removal program) has been paused due to the large number of applications.

Regardless, we will continue to press for improved industry relief programs. The market demands better berries at lower prices, but with rising costs and lower returns, growers need assistance to remain competitive.

We are also strongly advocating for changes in the **Business Risk Management** program, particularly to the **AgriStability** program.

The program remains underutilized for a number of reasons:

1. **Misinformation** – the program can appear overly complicated, and thus it is difficult for growers to understand its benefits;

2. **Delayed payments**;

3. **Less than ideal compensation rates.** There have been improvements to the compensation rates, but expanding the list of horticulture-specific allowable expenses is necessary to make the program more equitable for horticulture producers.

TOPICS OF NOTE

To address the market demand for **sustainable agriculture**, the council has initiated a conversation with a global organization, the **Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI)**, to undergo evaluation under their Farm Sustainability Assessment program. Once benchmarking is completed, based on the current public policies and initiatives, BC blueberry growers who participate in these programs (e.g., Environmental Farm Plan) will be able to make sustainability claims. Keep in touch for more information on this initiative in 2024.

Moreover, **pollination** remained a high-priority issue for the industry. The BC Blueberry Council takes an active role in addressing the shortage of and difficulty in securing healthy beehives. Aside from funding bee health research, the Council supported the honeybee industry's initiative to gain access to additional bee packages, particularly from the US.

We continue to be engaged with beekeepers and the government on this issue. We recently participated in the **Industry-Government Honey Bee Sustainability Working Group**, providing input and recommendations from our industry perspective. We hope to see positive change come as a result of these conversations.

Most importantly we continue to seek ways to address the challenges faced by growers, particularly due to rising input costs and lower returns. No opportunity is missed to bring this issue to the attention of all levels of government and industry partners, and we will continue to do so.

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

As harvest season nears, please take some time to get to know your processor-packer.

Each season, various misunderstandings around fruit grade and payments arise. Having a conversation early on with your processor-packer and establishing a plan for the delivery of your blueberries may assist in resolving some of the issues. This is not to say that the market outcome will be different. In the past several years, there has been increased competition.

The production of blueberries has been rapidly growing in other countries, putting pressure on our industry. Particularly in shoulder seasons, prices have not been sustained at the desired level.

BC's blueberry industry, growers, and processor-packers must work together to overcome these major challenges that we are facing.

The council recently completed a **Best Practices Dialogue for the BC Blueberry industry**, examining the situation between BC producers and packers/processors. If you are interested in reading the report, please contact the office at *info@bcblueberry.com.*

While we're unsure what's in store for this summer, we are hopeful that the weather will work in our favour and contribute to a prosperous harvest season.

All the best,

The BC Blueberry Council

If you would like to be involved in any of these issues and initiatives, please contact the office at info@bcblueberry.com.

FOOD SAFETY AND ON-FARM SUPPORT

4500+ OUTREACHES TO GROWERS IN 2022

SUPPORT AND INITIATIVES

- **Pacific Agriculture Show and Short Course** member registration (53 growers from Jan 24-28, 2023)
- Outreach to flood-impacted blueberry growers (54 growers – Jan 2023)
- Translation of "*Key Messages for Pollination in Blueberries*" document in Punjabi from English (March 2023)
- Participation in MNP study on CanadaGAP certification among fruit and vegetable producers in British Columbia

Incoming and Outgoing Calls to Growers	2322
CanadaGAP Certification Visits	225
CanadaGAP Certified Blueberry Growers in BC (2021, as per CanadaGAP)	380
Self-audit Checklist *	170
CanadaGAP Manuals *	40
Updated Pages *	140
Support for Propane Gun Setup, Noise and Spray Drift Complaints	11
Emails sent – day to day	780
Mass Communication sent – 3 times	~ 520

*** Printed material distributed to growers.**

DID YOU KNOW?

THERE ARE MORE THAN 340 CANADAGAP CERTIFIED BLUEBERRY GROWERS IN BC

Reported by Certification Bodies as of May 1, 2023

LOOKING FOR SUPPORT?

CONTACT MAJOR DHILLON, FOOD SAFETY COORDINATOR
MAJOR@BCBLUEBERRY.COM
604 308 3143

SCORCH VIRUS UPDATE

ARVIN NEGER
SCORCH VIRUS EDUCATION OFFICER

As I write this article is it mid-June and growers have completed their post-bloom sprays.

I noticed that it was challenging for some growers to get into their fields for a pre-bloom spray due to wet ground.

I saw good aphid control through the pollination period in those fields that got a pre-bloom spray.

Depending on how long the green fruit stage to the start of harvest is, you may need to do a third aphid spray between your post-bloom spray and first SWD spray. Many progressive growers are doing three to four aphid sprays per year. This program has shown to significantly slow down the spread of Scorch.

Talk to your chemical supplier to see what products are available for aphid control. Sivanto Prime and Closer seem to have better control and work faster than other products. Please confirm with your packer before spraying any products.

I estimate that I have seen (in person and drove by) around 80% to 85% of the blueberry fields in the Valley.

I believe it is safe to say that almost every field has Scorch virus to some extent.

I am seeing a smaller percentage in newer fields where the grower has implemented an aphid spray program right from planting. I believe that this is critical in protecting newer plantings. To minimize the spread of Scorch, I suggest that growers do 3 to 4 aphid sprays per year.

I highly suggest growers who have Elliot planted remove those fields right away to minimize the spread of Scorch to neighbouring fields. This year I saw more Duke plants with Scorch virus compared to 2022. It was challenging to see symptoms in Bluecrop fields compared to last year. I noticed that some plants looked okay but still tested positive for Scorch, even after retesting.

My contract with the BC Blueberry Council will be complete at the end of June. It was a pleasure to discuss with many of you how to prevent and maintain your fields. Please remember to monitor your fields for the virus and ensure you have an aphid spray program in place for the years to come.

DOMESTIC PROMOTIONS

Celebrated July 15th as **BC BLUEBERRY DAY**

Ran our annual **GoBlue BC** event with exciting influencer activations and collabs

Cultivated partnerships with **Bell Media** and **CTV Networks**

The **BC Blueberry Council** works with a skilled team of media and PR professionals to create vibrant and engaging promotional strategies.

In 2022, we took on new engagement strategies with our media partners, exploring innovative digital solutions to reach audiences in our local community and beyond.

Go Blue BC 2022 built on the success of the last two years to celebrate and create awareness of the launch of Fresh BC blueberry season and how berry lovers can 'Go Blue' across BC.

GO BLUE/FRESH CAMPAIGN

1.3 million

impressions

TELEVISION ADS

1.1 million

impressions

DIGITAL BILLBOARDS

We made strides, maximizing our impressions and consistently exceeding industry standards across content categories

SUMMER ACTIVATION
INFLUENCER ENGAGEMENT

To kick off **BC Blueberry Day** and **Go Blue BC**, we partnered with **Zygg eBikes** to host an electric bike giveaway campaign.

To promote the contest, an event was held at **Canwest Farms**, a blueberry farm in the Richmond area. Influencers were invited to take part in an eBike tour along the fields and enjoy an al fresco blueberry-forward lunch.

There was a great variety of participants, and the attending group was very engaged, spreading excitement on social media using the hashtag **#GoBlueBC**.

COLLABORATION WITH
WINES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

During the spring, the BC Blueberry Council teamed up with **Wines of British Columbia** in a celebratory campaign, showcasing a carefully curated selection of BC blueberry recipes paired with BC wines.

From BC blueberry dessert offerings to main courses, salads, and appetizers, award-winning cookbook author Jennifer Schell demonstrated that there is a BC blueberry and BC wine pairing for everybody.

The campaign ran during February and March 2023 to great fanfare, featuring a contest prize draw for a Wines of BC & BC Blueberries gift basket. Coverage was widespread in Canadian lifestyle media, with pick-ups in local and national news.

In **international markets**, the BC Blueberry Council works collaboratively with contracted agency partners and government officials to promote blueberries to consumers and trade.

In 2022, we focused our attention on online promotion efforts and trade show representation. We targeted our global audience on digital platforms, coordinating exciting influencer campaigns and contests. Audiences around the world were eager to get a taste of BC blueberries, as results echo.

This coming fiscal year, we are exploring new markets across North America, Asia Pacific, and Europe.

TRADE SHOWS

ONLINE ADVERTISING

MEDIA PARTNERSHIPS

4 TARGET MARKETS

INTERNATIONAL PROMOTIONS

PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN
ANUSAYA FRESH

We continued our partnership with **Mumbai-based** food distributor **Anusaya Fresh** to launch an exciting frozen blueberry promotion campaign, which included social media advertising, co-branding elements, engaging consumer contests, and the development of a blueberry recipe book!

PARTNERSHIP WITH SUJON BERRYFRUITS

Our representatives from **Latitude New Zealand** engaged with **Sujon Berryfruits** in our fourth year of partnership.

We reached audiences in New Zealand through several marketing activations, including trade show and exhibition participation, chef and consumer cooking competitions, influencer media campaigns, and in-person tasting events.

Our in-market team at **Latitude 45** provided ongoing strategic direction to our partners, ensuring that the benefits, versatility, and marketability of BC blueberries were top of mind.

LOCAL RECIPE DEVELOPMENT AND B2B SAMPLING JAPAN

Our team at **Witan Associates/PRAP Japan** coordinated an influencer recipe campaign with **cotta business,** an e-commerce platform for the bakery and confectionary industry. Major influencers were selected to create and promote **BC Blueberry Shaved Ice** and **BC Blueberry Mini Pies**, and the wider audience was invited to share their own creations using BC Blueberries.

PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGN
SOUTH KOREA

This was a promising season for BC Blueberries in Korea, with a real marketing push for **fresh BC blueberries** into the market. Our in-market team at **Latitude Inc** helped us to secure an important partnership with **Shinsegae Food** and **Emart**, the largest retailer in South Korea, with high-visibility branding in their stores during in-store promotional events in partnership with **BC Cherries**.

CANADIAN BERRY WEEK IN SOUTH KOREA

With the help of the **BC Trade Office** and the **Canadian Embassy** in Seoul, we participated in a collaborative promotion with the BC Cherry Association, to help celebrate the introduction of fresh BC blueberries and cherries to the region.

With the help of trade commissioners and embassy staff, along with our in-market team at **Latitude Inc**, we were able to secure that shelves were stocked with BC blueberries in **160 Emart stores** across South Korea and online on powerful e-commerce giant **SSG.com**.

SSG featured a **"Canadian Berry Week"** theme from August 25-28, 2022, and drove sales for BC blueberries and cherries during the promotional period. In addition, our embassy and trade partners supported us with social media coverage and buzz.

This is a great success for our industry and provides an inroad for future fresh export activity in the region.

RESEARCH PROGRAM

ERIC GERBRANDT
RESEARCH DIRECTOR

As in previous years, this research report includes a **table** that summarises recently completed and ongoing projects funded through the Council. A large body of research was initiated in **2018/2019** under an AgriScience Project with funding from the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the **Canadian Agricultural Partnership** (CAP), which ran from April 1, 2018, to March 31, 2023.

This work was in collaboration with the **Raspberry Industry Development Council** and **BC Strawberry Grower's Association** under the umbrella of the Lower Mainland Horticultural Improvement Association. Additional research projects were developed from 2019 to 2021 through competitive Request for Proposals processes.

With CAP ending a few months ago, the bulk of the industry's research and breeding activities are currently tied to a **new federal funding cycle** that runs from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2028. Historically, there has been a delay in receiving funding decisions for these research agreements, and this current cycle is no different, meaning that the current months are a transition period between funding programs.

Once funding has been secured, we will communicate additional details on what research we will be able to conduct over the next several years. A high-level summary is that the aim is to support the industry's resilience, growth, and environmental sustainability by developing **new berry germplasm** (i.e., genetic resources) and varieties; **identifying genetic markers for pest resistance** and fruit productivity and quality, and **increasing carbon sequestration** during and between cropping cycles.

An industry's access to competitive varieties is the most fundamental factor dictating economic efficiency. The key issue is that most BC blueberry producers rely on varieties bred in other climatic regions. For example, most of our industry's blueberry varieties were developed by breeding programs in regions such as Michigan and New Jersey. The large and important gap that BC blueberry growers face is, therefore, a lack of varieties that are well-adapted to the local climate and that have high yields, superior fruit quality, and resistance to economically damaging pests.

Moreover, as the industry replants substantial acreage, there is a gap in the development of cover cropping, organic amendment, and fertilizer management practices to drive carbon sequestration during and between cropping cycles.

Therefore, there is the opportunity to build upon current progress in the development of superior berry germplasm (i.e., genetic resources) and new berry varieties, identification of genetic markers to improve breeding efficiency, and establishment of replanting protocols that sequester carbon.

Some specific objectives include:

- Sequestering carbon between highbush blueberry planting cycles through the development of cover cropping and organic amendment best management practices.
- Developing disease screening tools that will decrease reliance on pesticides and increase productivity for growers.
- Understanding plant-parasitic nematode species distribution and their impact on highbush blueberry.
- Understanding aphid-parasitoid interactions, the role in virus epidemiology, management implications, and potential sources of genetic resistance in highbush blueberry.
- Developing genetic markers for virus resistance and developing advanced viral diagnostics and treatment tools.
- Developing genetic markers for fruit quality in highbush blueberry.
- Developing genetic markers for increased floral bud set to improve the productivity of highbush blueberry cultivars under local climatic conditions.

As reported in last year's **Annual General Meeting** report, much of the Council's ongoing work falls into **three categories**:

1. Blueberry Viruses

- Assessing viral genetic diversity and improving diagnostic tools so that growers can more effectively determine what viral infections they have on their farms.
- Resolving the taxonomy of the aphids that vector Blueberry Scorch Virus and (potentially) other novel viruses recently detected in blueberry fields in the Pacific Northwest so that we can better control these vectors.
- Evaluating plant genetic resources for resistance to aphid vectors so that we can breed resistance to these vectors into future varieties.
- Developing a model to use drone and/or satellite imagery to map Blueberry Scorch Virus infection across the region.

2. Pollinator Health

- Addressing bee health concerns by studying the drivers of European foulbrood (EFB) disease in honeybee colonies after pollinating blueberries.
- Creating diagnostic tools for the stressors impacting honeybee colonies during and after blueberry pollination.

3. Berry Breeding and Cultivar Evaluation

- Investing in the development of new varieties through the long-term effort of the BC Berry Breeding Program – currently, there are several "advanced breeding selections" that have entered final stage trials and new varieties may be commercialized in the next couple of years.
- Developing methodologies for assessing phenolic and volatile content in blueberry "breeding selections" – work that will lead to improving the "sensorial" quality of blueberry varieties for better flavour and "liking" by the end consumer.
- Seeking sources of genetic resistance to key pests and diseases so that future varieties are easier and cheaper to manage.
- Evaluating two genetic mapping populations to identify genes relating to high levels of bud set, slowness to become infected with Blueberry Shock Virus, superior fruit quality, and improved "self-fertility".
- Bridging between berry breeding and the horticultural performance of new varieties in the field, we continue to collaborate with researchers in Nova Scotia, Quebec, and Ontario through the Canadian Berry Trial Network to assess the performance of new varieties from other breeding programs as well as "advanced selections" from the local BC program. Most recently in blueberries, this work is providing BC growers with information about new blueberry genetics coming from three US-based breeding programs (Fall Creek Farm and Nursery, Oregon Blueberry Farm, and the Michigan State University) as well as several advanced selections from the BC Berry Breeding Program.

RESEARCH PROGRAM

Projects supported by the BC Blueberry Council

Key Issue(s)	Project Title	Lead	Organization	Objective(s)
Diseases (Fungal & Bacterial)	Berry Crop Pathology	Dr. Rishi Burlakoti	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	**COMPLETED:** Developing a decision support system (DDS) for fruit rot will provide growers with better information based on weather station data and predictive models of disease life cycles; isolating and characterizing bacterial blight will be used to develop better screening protocols for the breeding program so that resistant cultivars can be bred for BC and to facilitate the evaluation of alternatives to copper-based products to diversify field-management options.
Diseases (Nematodes)	Development of Molecular Diagnostics for Plant-Parasitic Nematodes in BC	Dr. Tom Forge	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	**ONGOING:** Developing a lab method for detecting nematodes in soil and root samples, filling a gap at BC Agri in diagnostic capacity for the industry.
Diseases (Viruses)	Evaluation of Spray-Induced Gene Silencing of Blueberry Scorch and Shock Viruses	Dr. Jim Mattsson	Simon Fraser University	**COMPLETED:** Designing a biopesticide that can be used to prevent the spread of economically important blueberry viruses.
Diseases (Viruses)	Development of PCR Based Methods to Reliably Distinguish Shock or Scorch Virus	Dr. Jim Mattsson	Simon Fraser University	**COMPLETED:** Determining strain variation for blueberry shock and scorch viruses to improve reliability of diagnostic tools available to the industry.
Diseases (Viruses)	Improved Viral Diagnostics and New Pathogen Discovery	Dr. Jim Mattsson	Simon Fraser University	**ONGOING:** Genomics-based identification and development of diagnostic methods for detection of novel pathogens in BC blueberry farm and nursery industries.
Diseases (Viruses)	Blueberry Scorch Virus Surveillance	Dr. Bing Lu	Simon Fraser University	**ONGOING:** Use drone flights, satellite imagery, and ground-truthing of virus infection to develop a model for detection of virus-infected plants using satellite imagery.
Genetics & Fruit Quality	Assessing Harvest and Postharvest Fruit Quality in Blueberry	Dr. Simone Castellarin	University of British Columbia	**ONGOING:** Assessing fruit quality of current cultivars and breeding selections at harvest and at various times postharvest during cooler storage to determine biochemical constituents of fruit quality and direct the development of new cultivars, and evaluating postharvest treatments and advanced packaging materials to improve shelf-life of standard cultivars.
Genetics & Fruit Quality	Canadian Berry Trial Network	Dr. Eric Gerbrandt	Canadian Horticulture Council	**ONGOING:** Evaluating new cultivars and advanced selections under commercial conditions through on-farm grower trials, linking to similar work in Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia as the first Canadian Berry Trial Network.
Genetics & Cultivars	Berry Germplasm Evaluation for the Fraser Valley	Dr. Michael Dossett	BC Blueberry Council	**ONGOING:** Characterizing germplasm to obtain new genetic sources of resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses, improved fruit quality and novel traits of interest; developing molecular and phenotypic selection tools; and moving the gene pool forward through annual crosses and recurrent selection on each generation of seedlings.
Genetics & Cultivars	Berry Cultivar Development for the Fraser Valley	Dr. Michael Dossett	BC Blueberry Council	**ONGOING:** Implementing unreplicated observation trials; conducting replicated evaluation trials; and propagating virus-free plant material of breeding selections for advancement toward cultivar release.

Key Issue(s)	Project Title	Lead	Organization	Objective(s)
Horticultural Management	Berry Crop Enhancement	Dr. Eric Gerbrandt	Sky Blue Horticulture Ltd.	**COMPLETED:** Enhancing crop establishment, yield, and fruit quality through evaluating alternative crop inputs and mitigating cultivar-specific challenges related to adaptation to local climatic conditions for novel blueberry cultivars.
Horticultural Management	Controlling Blueberry Fruit Development using Plant Growth Regulators	Dr. Charitha Jayasinghege	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	**ONGOING:** Using plant growth regulators to de-blossom new plantings as well as delay the ripening for various blueberry cultivars to shift the harvest window.
Pests (SWD)	Ecological Pest Management for Spotted Wing Drosophila	Dr. Juli Carrillo	University of British Columbia	**COMPLETED:** Developing alternative methods of SWD control to reduce regional pressure and reliance on chemical tools, including evaluation of intercropping options to repel SWD, developing better attractants for lures and traps, and establishing effective biological control species in the region.
Pests (SWD)	Evaluating Mass Trapping as a Tool for Non-chemical Spotted Wing Drosophila Management	Allyson Kang	ES Crop Consult Ltd.	**COMPLETED:** Evaluating mass trapping as an option for reducing SWD pressure in conventional and organic settings.
Pests (Weevils)	Minor Use Screening Trial for Weevils – 2020 and 2021	Arlan Benn	ES Crop Consult Ltd.	**COMPLETED:** Assess efficacy of new chemistries against standard products for their ability to control root weevils.
Pests (Aphids)	Minor Use Screening Trial for Aphids – 2022	Jen McFarlane	ES Crop Consult Ltd.	**ONGOING:** Assess duration of efficacy for novel pre-bloom aphicides compared to current standards.
Pests (Aphids)	Understanding the Population Genetic Structure of the Blueberry-Infesting Aphid, *Ericaphis fimbriata* species complex, in the Pacific Northwest	Drs. Bryan Brunet and Michelle Franklin	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	**ONGOING:** Resolve the taxonomic issues relating to the aphid species responsible for vectoring Blueberry Scorch virus.
Pests (Various)	Implementing Integrated Pest Management Practices on Small-Scale Farms	Marjo Dessureault	ES Crop Consult Ltd.	**COMPLETED:** Developing IPM training materials for small-scale fruit and vegetable growers to handle shifts in pest pressure due to climate change and to improve region control.
Pests (Various) & Genetics	Berry Crop Entomology	Dr. Michelle Franklin	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	**COMPLETED:** Providing the breeding program with information on the relative susceptibility or resistance of advanced selections to key arthropod pests to inform decisions about release and management of new cultivars.
Pests (Voles)	Non-Chemical Vole Control in Berry Fields	Sofi Hindmarch	Fraser Valley Conservancy	**COMPLETED:** Assessing effectiveness of a non-chemical option for killing voles (i.e., a commercial trap that has a self-resetting, bolt-action kill mechanism) as compared to rodenticides.
Pollination & Bees	Effects of Host, Pathogen, and Environmental Factors on Increased Incidence of European Foulbrood in Honey Bee	Dr. Sarah Wood	University of Saskatchewan	**COMPLETED:** Determining effects of common pesticides on bee susceptibility to European foulbrood (EFB) disease and assessing ways to improve bee nutrition and health.
Pollination & Bees	Effect of Brood-to-Nurse Bee Ratio and Pathogenicity of *M. plutonius* on EFB Disease Association with Blueberry Pollination	Drs. Sarah Wood, Ivanna Kozii, Elemir Simko	University of Saskatchewan	**ONGOING:** Refine a colony infection model to determine impact of bee ratios on susceptibility to European foulbrood (EFB) disease and compare strain virulence from blueberry pollinating hives.
Pollination & Bees	The Blueberries and the Bees: Assessing Honey Bee Health Stressors Using Proteomics	Dr. Leonard Foster	University of British Columbia	**ONGOING:** Develop diagnostic tools to assess the cause(s) of weak hives as an objective means of diagnosing and mitigating challenges to bee health.

BC Blueberry Council

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Hours

Weekdays 8AM-4PM

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