Blue Honeysuckle (Haskap) Production
Harvesting, Processing & Pest Management

Harvest
- Plants reach full production age within a couple of years of planting
- Limited juvenile period

Harvest
- Fruit is typically ready for harvest in late June or early July
- Harvest fruit when colour has developed throughout entire fruit
  - Exterior may look ready, but inside will be green

Harvest Period

Harvest
- Fruit can be left on plants for some time
  - But, birds may eat or they may dry out

Fallen fruit after harvest
HARVESTING METHODS

Joanna side-row harvester

Joanna side-row harvester

Joanna side-row harvester
INSTA-POLL
“WHAT FACTOR DO YOU THINK IS MOST IMPORTANT WHEN IT COMES TO CHOOSING A HARVESTER?”

PEST MANAGEMENT

Netting
- **Definitely a requirement once fruiting starts**
- Should be:
  - Removable
  - Ground up (no ground level gaps)
  - Small hole size (½ inch netting)
- **BUT:**
  - Significant cost
  - Complicates orchard activities
- Range of different options available

Pest Management
- Birds are the main pest issue
- Netting is often required

Individual net for individual mature bush (U of S – Saskatoon, SK)
Close up of individual bush netting

Full acre netting with pole supports (U of S – Saskatoon, SK)

Row netting with supports (U of S – Saskatoon, SK)

Netting system for single row (Ferintosh, AB)

Note – birds were finding their way IN through an open end (but not OUT)

Net over row of Blue Honeysuckle
Fully supported netting model for larger area orchards

Netting demonstration – moveable and supported

INSTA-POLL
“What other ways might you manage bird predation?”

Audio scare system in apples (Minnesota)

Scare devices (Indiana)

Scare balloon (SW Michigan)
Pest Management

- No significant insect or disease issues have been identified at this point
  - That won’t likely last...

- Powdery mildew does occur occasionally
  - Ensure good ventilation and air circulation

- Sunburn/Sunscald is also periodic

Other Pests / Problems

- Sunburn / Sunscald on leaves
- Possible Botrytis on fruit

Photo by OMAFRA
INSTA-POLL
“IF YOU ARE GROWING, HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED ANY PESTS OR ISSUES?”

QUESTIONS???

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HORT SNACKS