Are you interested in growing highbush blueberries? Would this crop work well on your land? Would blueberries give a bump to your bottom line?

This school is designed to help people who are interested in highbush blueberry production as a commercial enterprise. Basic site requirements, site preparation, plant selection, care of young plants, nutrient management, pruning, pest management and business management will be discussed with a team of experts from the University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

Team Members include:

David Handley, Vegetable & Small Fruit Specialist
Jim Dill, Pest Management Specialist
Caragh Fitzgerald, Extension Educator, Kennebec County
Mark Hutchinson, Extension Educator, Knox & Lincoln Counties
Tori Jackson, Extension Educator, Androscoggin & Sagadahoc Counties
Rick Kersbergen, Extension Educator, Waldo County

To pre-register for the Highbush Blueberry School please fill out the enclosed form and mail it to the address given before January 5, 2009 or call Pam St. Peter at 207-933-2100, ext. 106.

The school will be held at the Augusta Civic Center during the Maine Agricultural Trades Show, which runs January 13-15, so participants will have an opportunity to come early and spend some time looking at the supplies, equipment and services on exhibit that are available to help them with a blueberry or other agricultural enterprise. Admission to the Trades Show is free.

Participation in the Highbush Blueberry School is free, but space is limited, so pre-registration is strongly recommended. Participants will be able to purchase the Highbush Blueberry Production Guide, published by the Natural Resource and Agricultural Engineering Service, at the door.

This text is strongly recommended for participants. The cost is $42.00. Checks will be accepted at the registration table and should be made out to “UMCE.”

Sponsored by:
University of Maine Cooperative Extension
Maine Crop Insurance Education Program

Non-Discrimination Statement
In complying with the letter and spirit of applicable laws and pursuing its own goals of diversity, the University System shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, including transgender status or gender expression, national origin, citizenship status, age, disability, or veteran’s status in employment, education, and all other areas of the University System. The University provides reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities upon request.

Questions and complaints about discrimination in any area of the University should be directed to the Executive Director of Equal Opportunity, The University of Maine, Room 101, 5754 North Stevens Hall, Orono, ME 04469-5754, telephone (207) 581-1226 (voice and TDD). Any person with a disability who needs accommodations for this program should contact Pam St. Peter at 1-800-924-5258 ext. 106 to discuss their needs at least 7 days in advance.
Agenda

10:30 a.m.  INTRODUCTIONS

10:40 a.m.  The Highbush Blueberry: Morphology & History  
            David Handley

11:00 a.m.  Pre-plant Consideration & Preparation  
            Mark Hutchinson

11:20 a.m.  Blueberry Variety Characteristics  
            David Handley

11:40 a.m.  Planting & Early Care  
            Rick Kersbergen

NOON  LUNCH BREAK (on your own)

12:50 p.m.  Blueberry Plant Nutrition Done Right  
            David Handley

1:10 p.m.  Pruning Blueberry Bushes, Young and Old  
            David Handley

1:30 p.m.  Pest Identification & Management  
            Jim Dill

1:50 p.m.  Marketing Options & Business Management  
            Tori Jackson

2:15 p.m.  Virtual Farm Tour: Rick Kersbergen’s Blueberries  
            Rick Kersbergen

2:45 p.m.  Questions & Discussion

Registration Deadline  
January 5, 2009  
(Please Print)

Name: ____________________________

Business Name: _____________________

Address: ________________________________

City: ________________________________

State: ___________ Zip: ___________

County: _____________________________

E-Mail: ________________________________

Phone: ________________________________

Preregistration is encouraged to attend the Highbush Blueberry School. Space is limited. We recommend everyone purchase the Highbush Blueberry Guide. The guide will be available for $42.00 at the school and checks should be made payable to UMCE.

Mail registration form to:

Highmoor Farm
Attn: Pam St. Peter
P.O. Box 179
Monmouth, ME 04259