

# Raspberry, blackberry and blueberry off season production

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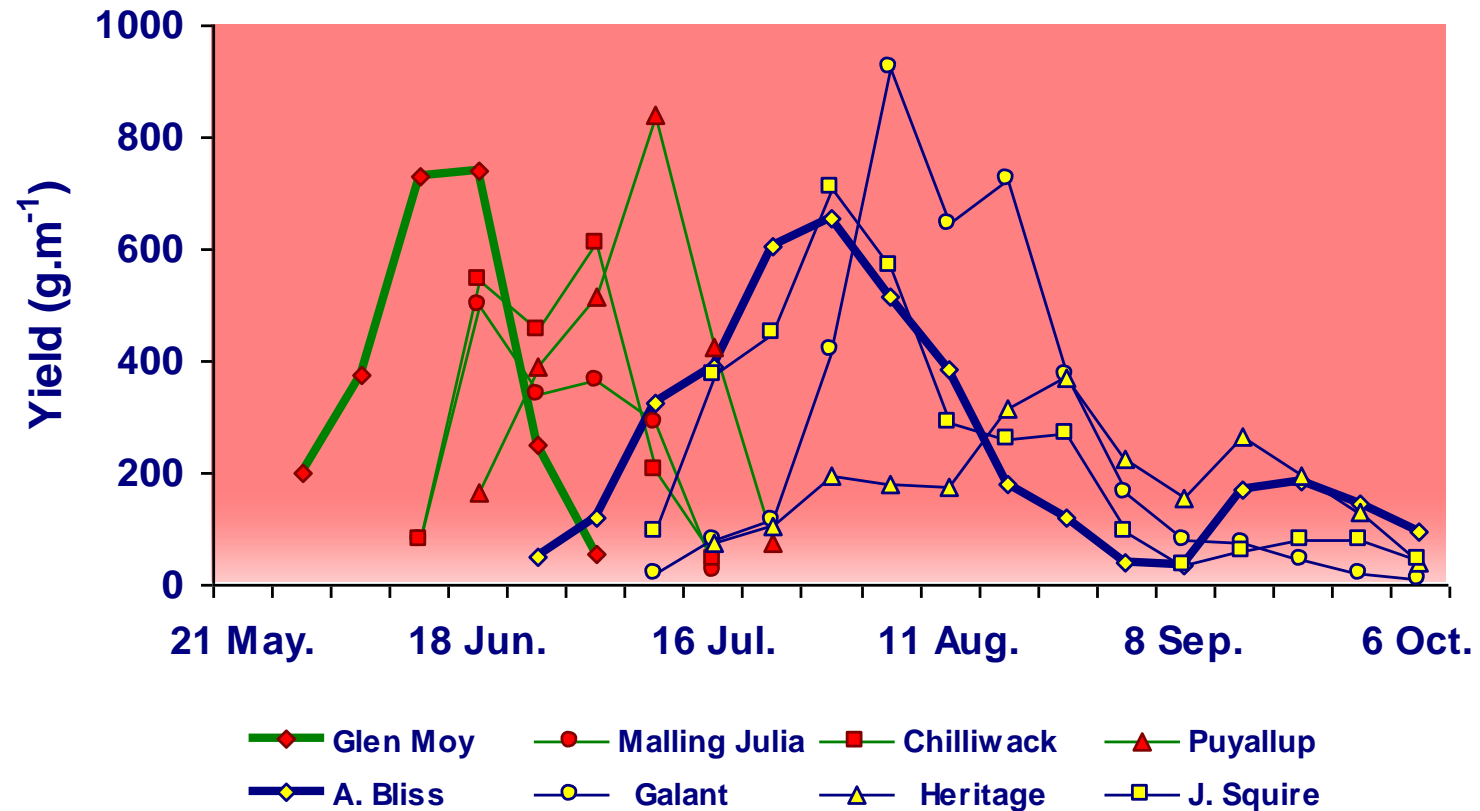
# All year round raspberry production

1. Open field production with different types and cultivars,
2. Early production with summer-fruiting cultivars,
3. Late production with primocane-fruiting cultivars,
4. Other new growing systems.

# 1. Open field production



# Open field production with different cultivars



# Protected cultivation



**Substrate**



**Soil**



# Planting material

## - High altitude nurseries -

- “Long canes”
  - This planting material is used for a long time and it was first produced in high altitude nurseries mainly in North European countries. From these nurseries it is possible to buy plants grown in three different ways:
    - 1. Wide bed plants
    - 2. Narrow bed plants
    - 3. In pots

# Planting material “long canes”

## - High altitude nurseries -

### 1. Wide bed plants

Plants are grown in wide beds with an high number of plants (high densities). This is the standard way of multiplication that are not often ordered. They can be quickly introduced into an high multiplication rate. However, this plants have a low yield potential.



# Planting material “long canes”

- High altitude nurseries -

## 2. Narrow bed plants

Plants are grown in single rows. Yield potential is very high. In good growing conditions it is possible to achieve more than 500 g per plant.





# Planting material “long canes”

- High altitude nurseries -

## 2.3. Plants in pots

These plants are only supplied to heated glasshouse growers. They present the highest yield potential. However, plants must be ordered with more than 12 months before planting.



# Planting material

- Low altitude -

- “Long canes”

- In this case growers use their own planting material. New plants are dig out from the production fields and cold stored for a certain period of time depending on the cultivar used. Depending on digging date and fruiting habit plants can be used for early and late production:

- 1. Early long-cane production with floricanes-fruiting cultivars
    - 2. Winter long-cane production with tip and primocane-fruiting cultivars

# Early production with summer-fruiting cultivars

## Greenhouse grown plants





# Early production with summer-fruiting cultivars

## Artificial chilling



# Early production with summer-fruiting cultivars

## Excellent results







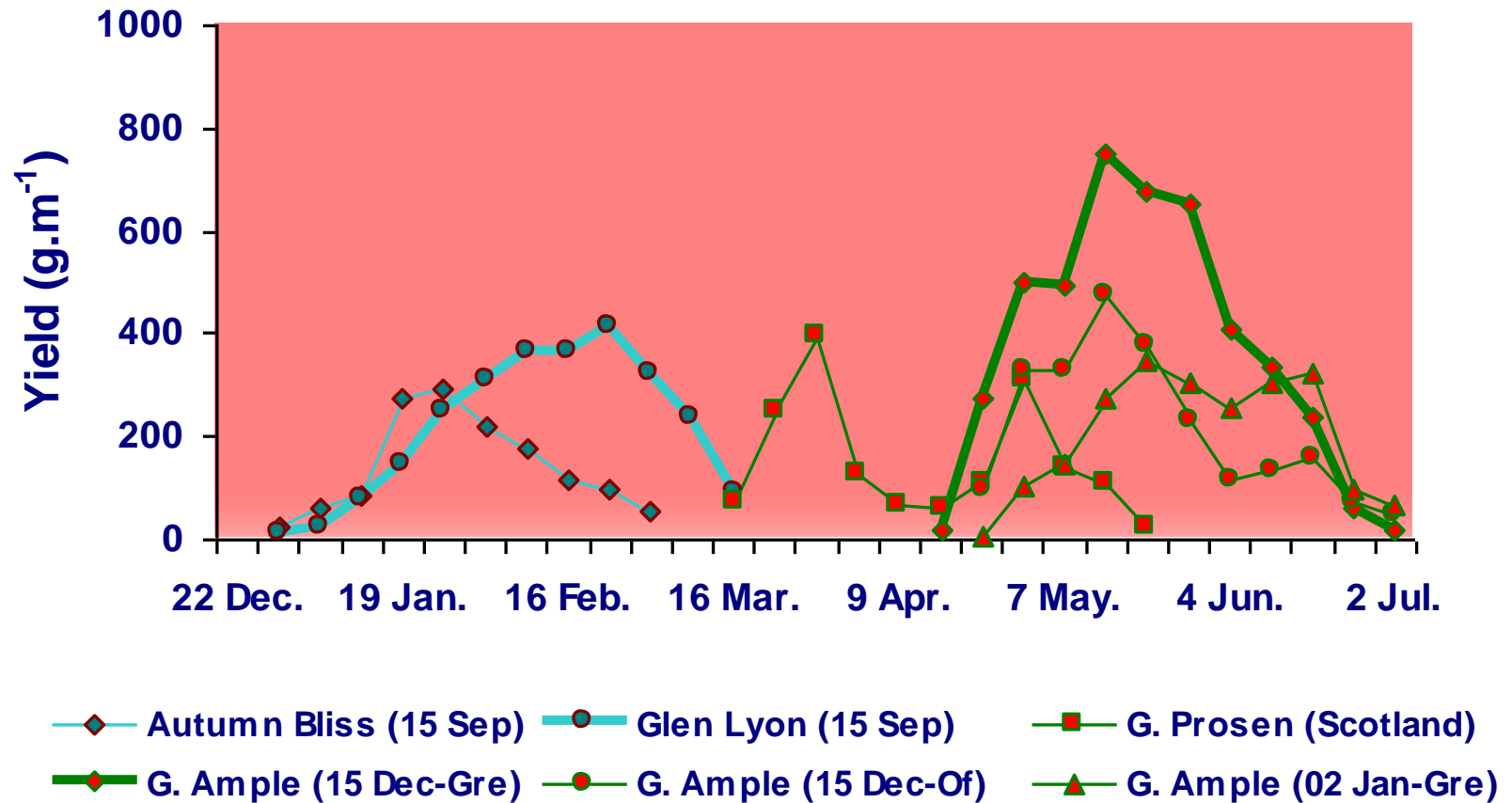
## Three different stages

- same day -

- same farm -



# Early production



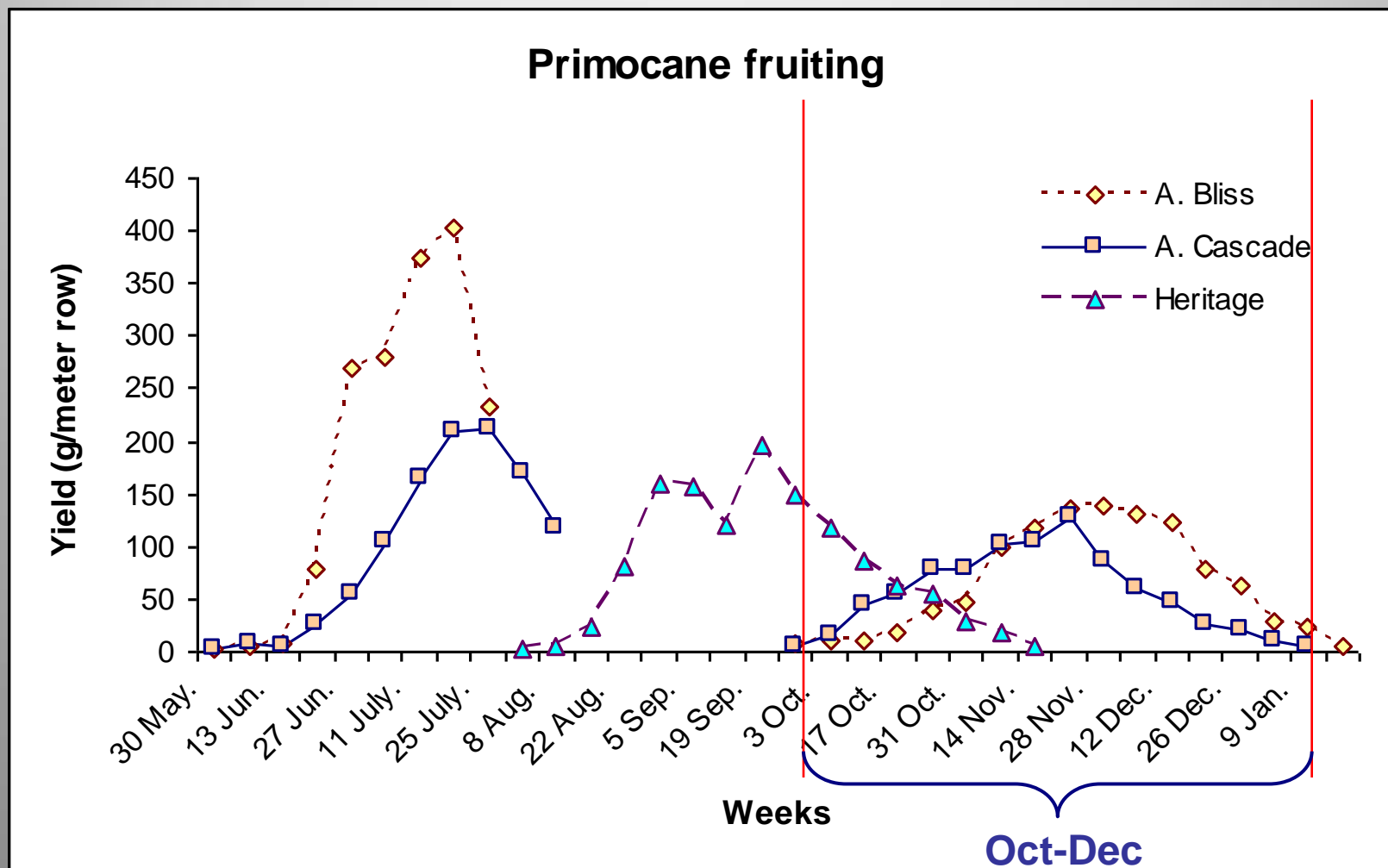
### 3. Late production

#### Pruning techniques - early trials



Cutting primocanes at ground level ( $N_0$ )

# Primocane-fruited - plastic tunnel





## Better pruning techniques



Cutting primocanes at ten nodes ( $N_{10}$ )



# Effect of pruning date

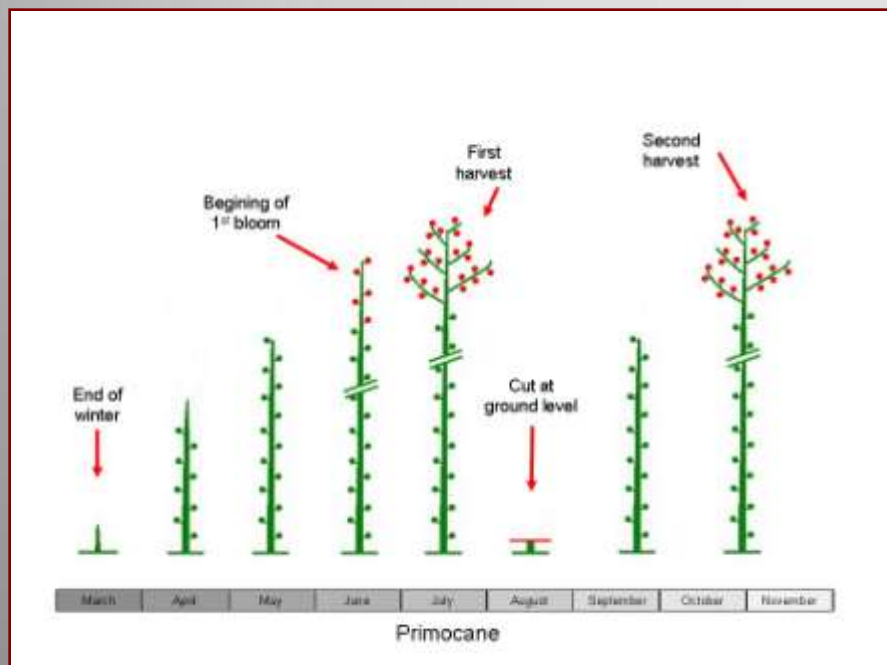
	Growth characteristics					
Cutting date	Cane height (cm)	Nodes (n°)		Cane dry weight (g)	Leaf area per cane (m <sup>2</sup> )	Yield per cane (g)
		Total	Fruiting			
2 Jul.	95.0	31.9	8.1	25.0	1.74	63.5
16 Jul.	95.6	32.9	8.0	20.3	1.15	52.8
31 Jul.	88.0	30.0	7.7	16.4	0.99	26.5
15 Aug.	63.3	21.0	3.4	10.5	0.49	4.8
30 Aug.	57.0	18.5	2.7	8.9	0.11	2.1
Significance						
Linear	**	*	**	**	**	**
Quadratic	**	**	**	**	**	**

\*. \*\*. Significant at  $P < 0.05$  and  $0.01$  respectively.

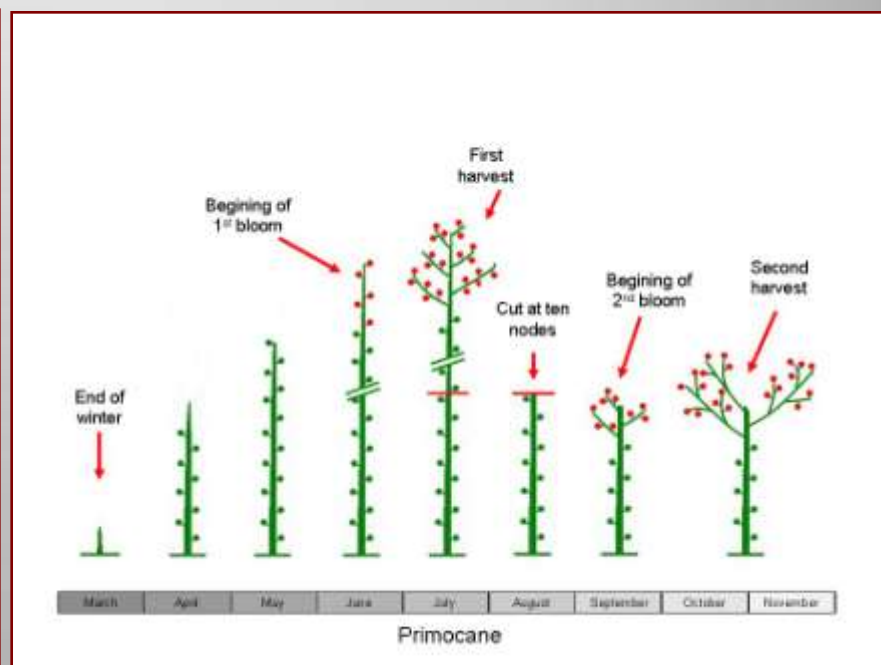
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# Primocane-fruiting

## - pruning techniques-



**Ground level**



**Ten nodes**

# Pruning intensity effect

Cultivar	Cutting date	Pruning intensity <sup>z</sup>	Lateral branches per cane	Characteristics of the lateral branches			Yield per cane (g)	Fruit number per cane	Mass per fruit (g)
				Length (cm)	Node number	Fruiting laterals per branch			
Autumn Bliss	19 Jul	N <sub>5</sub>	2	105	25	9	105	32	3.2
		N <sub>10</sub>	3	79	20	9	168	54	3.1
		N <sub>15</sub>	4	62	18	9	167	57	2.9
		Linear <sup>y</sup>	***	***	***	N S	*	*	*
Autumn Cascade	02 Aug	N <sub>10</sub>	3	46	14	8	174	57	3.0
		N <sub>15</sub>	4	43	13	8	189	63	3.0
		N <sub>20</sub>	5	38	12	9	232	78	3.0
		Linear <sup>y</sup>	***	N S	N S	N S	*	*	N S
Heritage	16 Aug	N <sub>15</sub>	1	72	28	10	33	14	2.4
		N <sub>20</sub>	2	52	23	10	36	15	2.3
		N <sub>25</sub>	2	45	19	10	48	20	2.4
		Linear <sup>y</sup>	*	***	***	N S	N S	*	N S

+

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## Autumn Bliss



**Five nodes**



**Ten nodes**



**Fifteen nodes**

# Effect of fruiting-lateral number

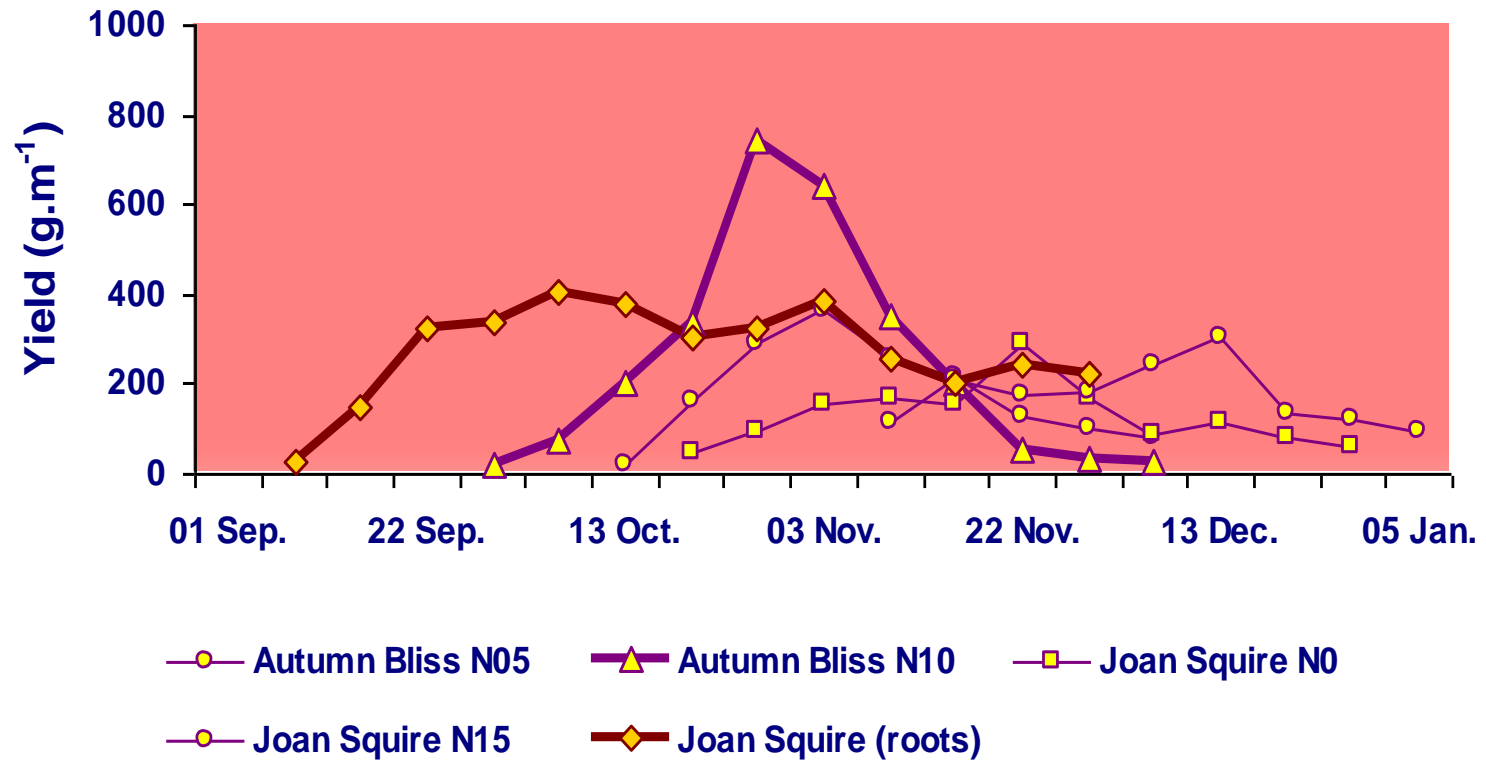
Yield, mean weight of 20 berries and percentage of unmarketable fruit of cultivar Joan Squire, cut at 10 nodes on 9 and 23 August ( $C_1$  and  $C_2$ , respectively) with reduction to one and two fruiting laterals per cane ( $L_1$  and  $L_2$ , respectively) and standard treatment (without lateral thinning).

Cultivar	Treatment	Yield <sup>z</sup> (g·m <sup>-1</sup> )	Weight 20 berries <sup>z</sup> (g)	Unmarketable <sup>z</sup> (%)
Joan Squire				
$C_1$	Standard	1895 a	58 b	3,8 a
	$L_2$	1398 b	62 ab	2,1 a
	$L_1$	1477 b	66 a	2,3 a
$C_2$	Standard	1026 a	58 a	2,2 a
	$L_2$	880 a	60 a	2,8 a
	$L_1$	380 b	52 b	1,0 a

<sup>z</sup>Mean separation within parameters by LSD,  $P < 0,05$ .

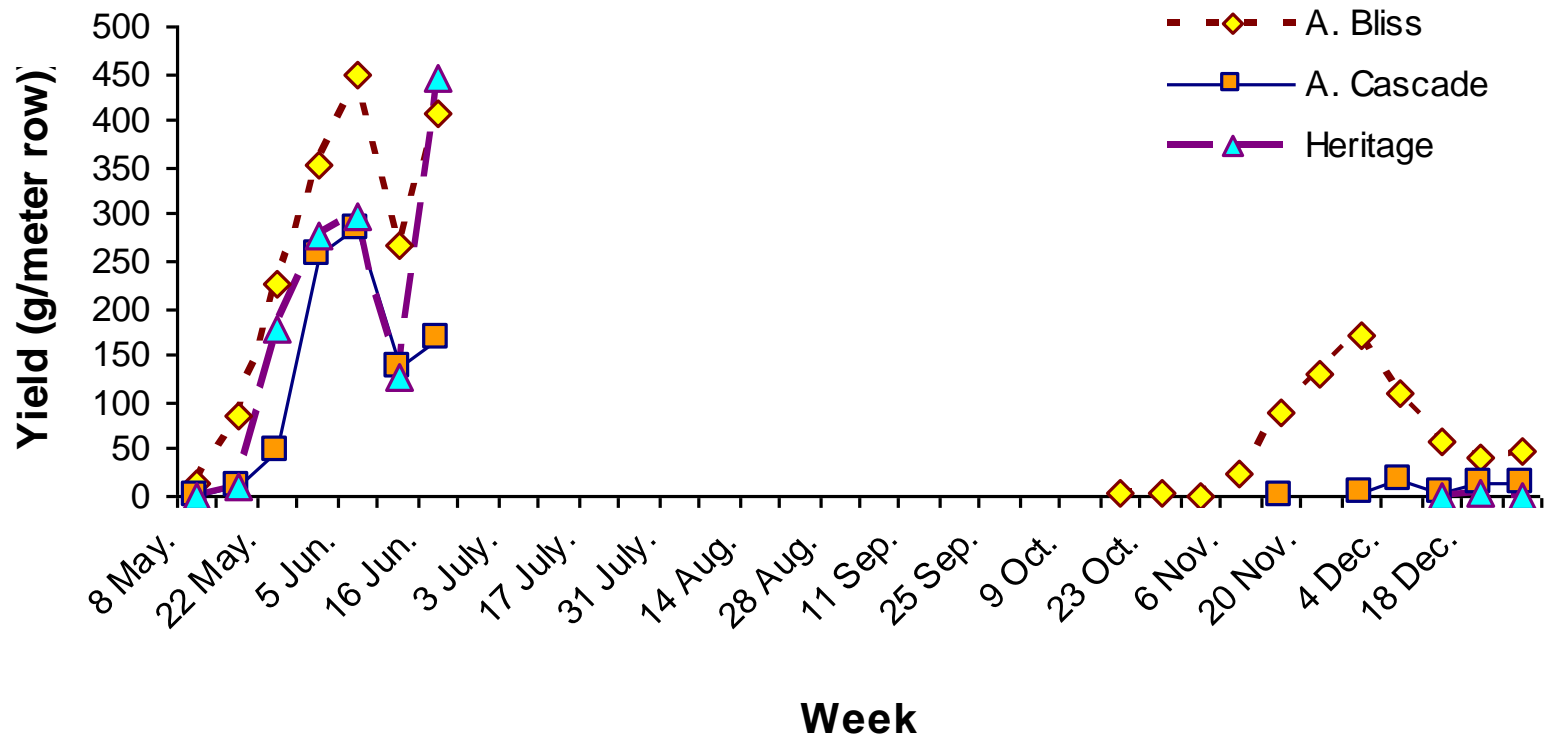


## Late production

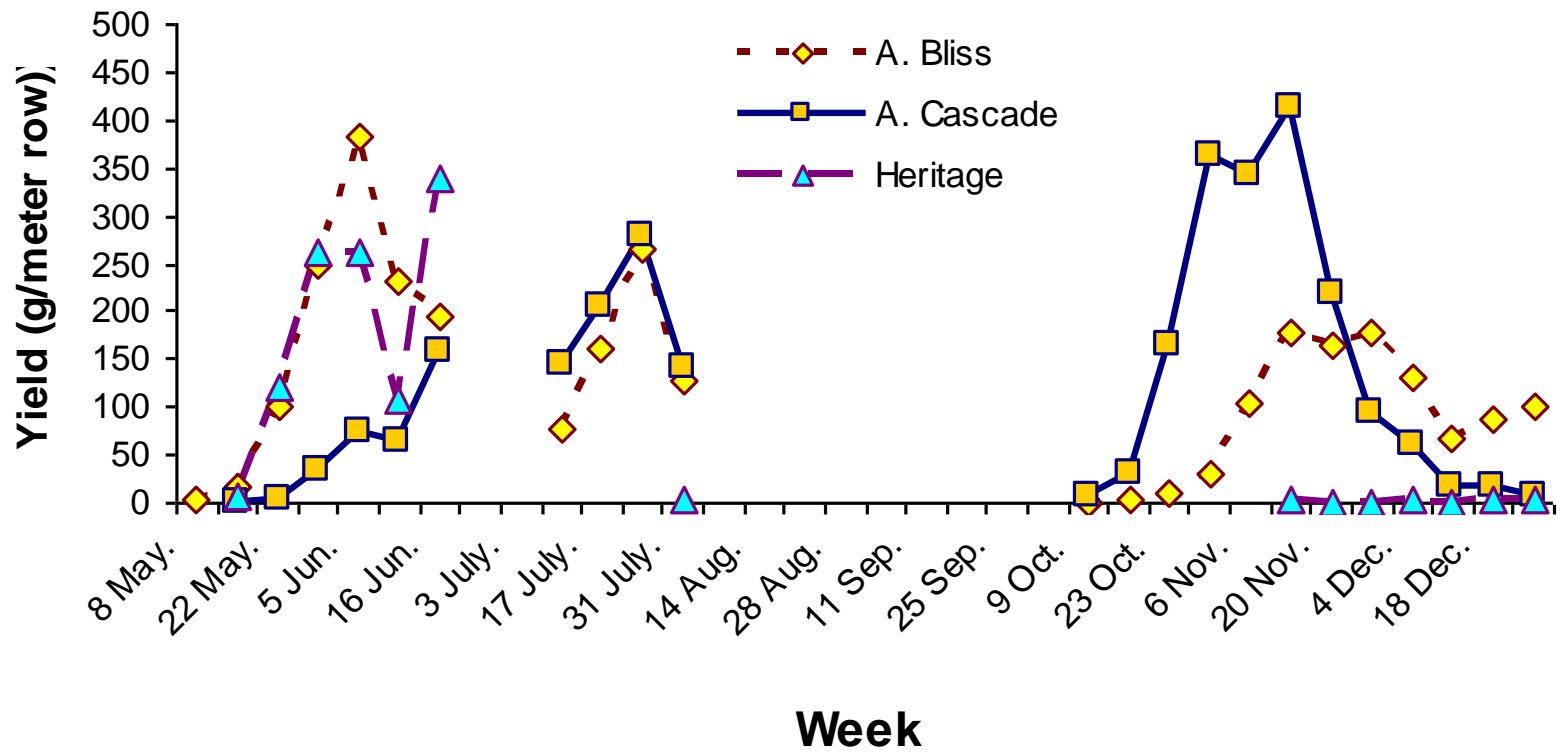


# System 1

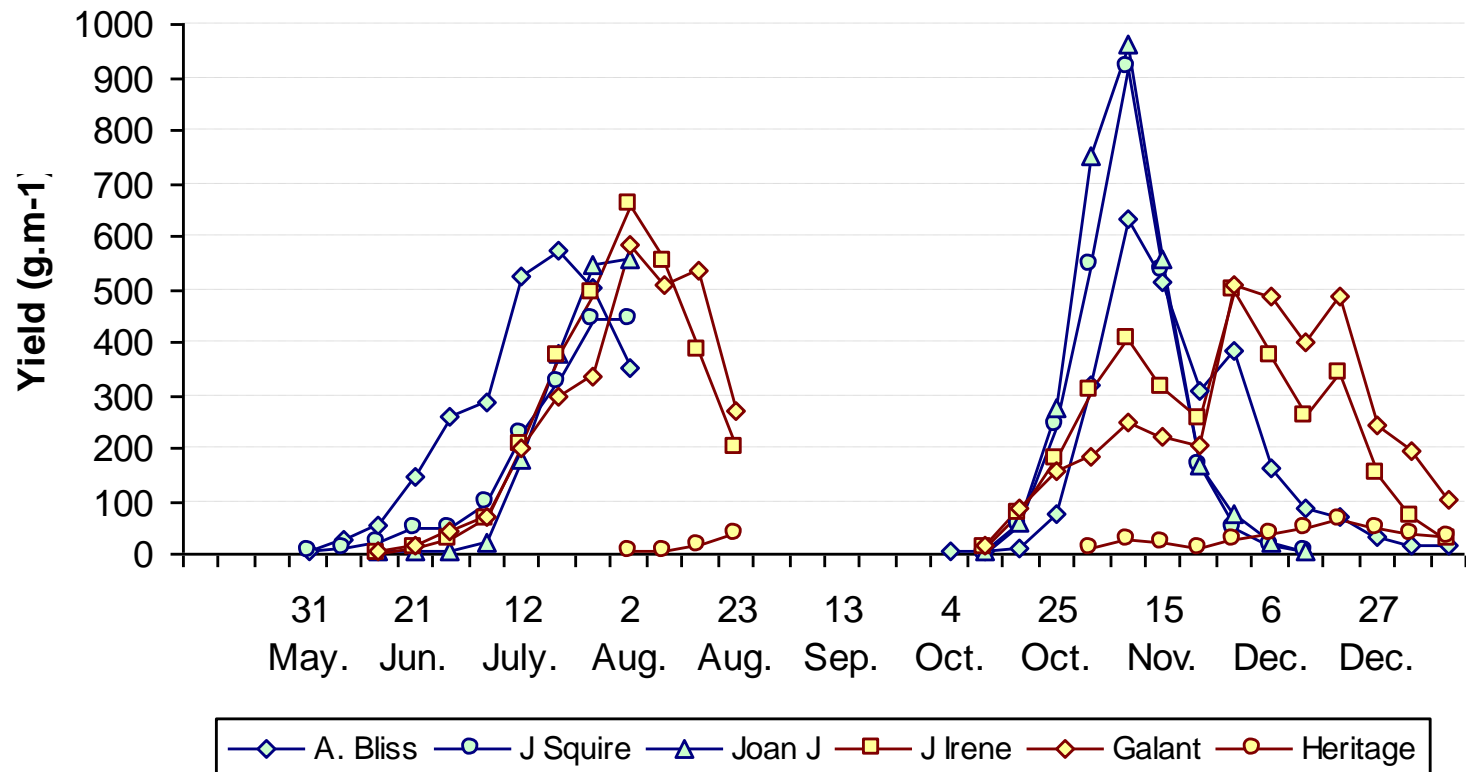
(Second year cane + pruning at No)



## System 2 (Second year cane + pruning at N<sub>10</sub>)



**(Early cvs x N10) (Late cvs x fruiting height)**



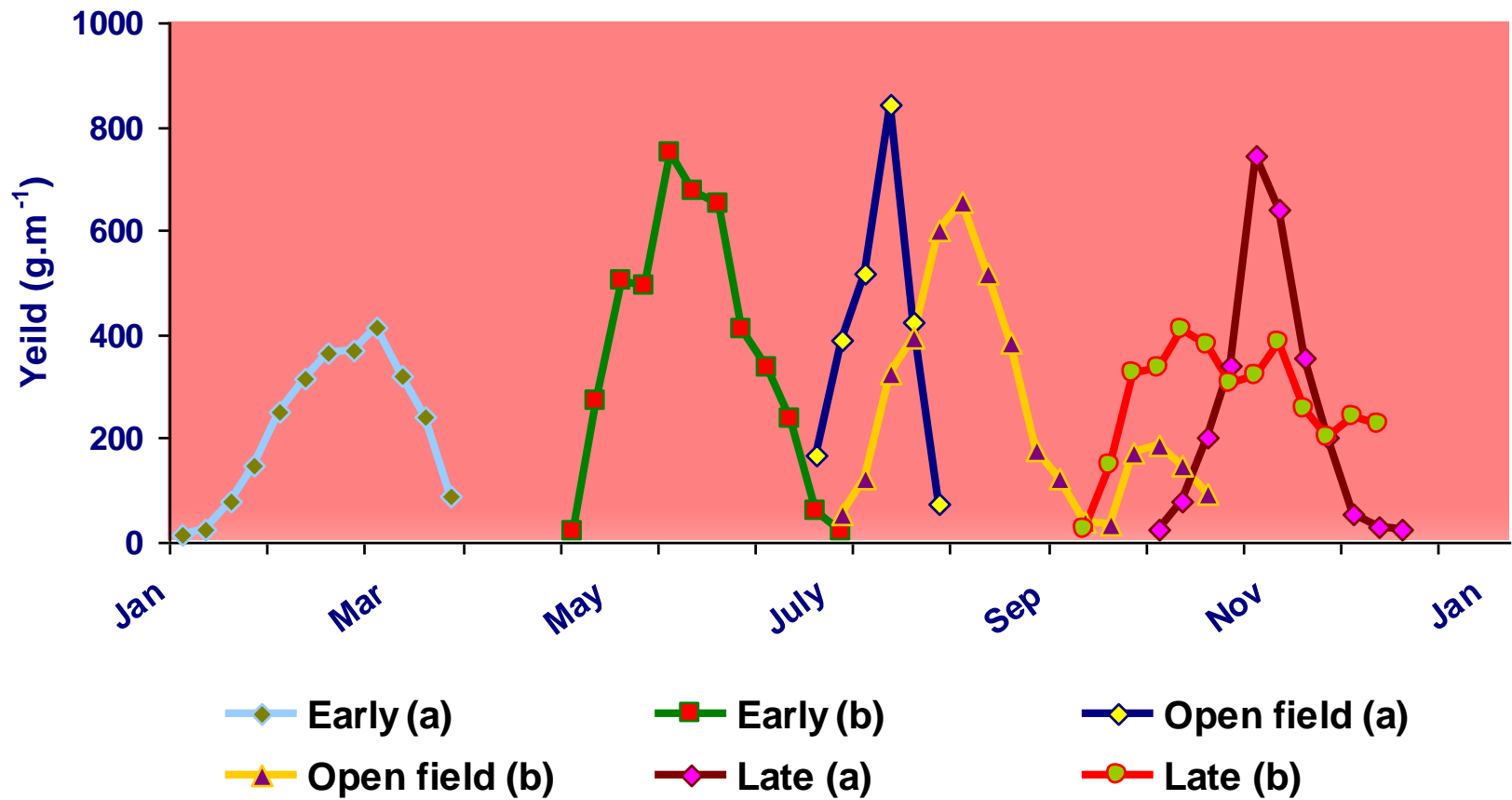
Early cultivars - N<sub>10</sub> (01 Aug.)  
Late cultivars – fruiting height (24 Aug.)

Yield g.m<sup>-1</sup>

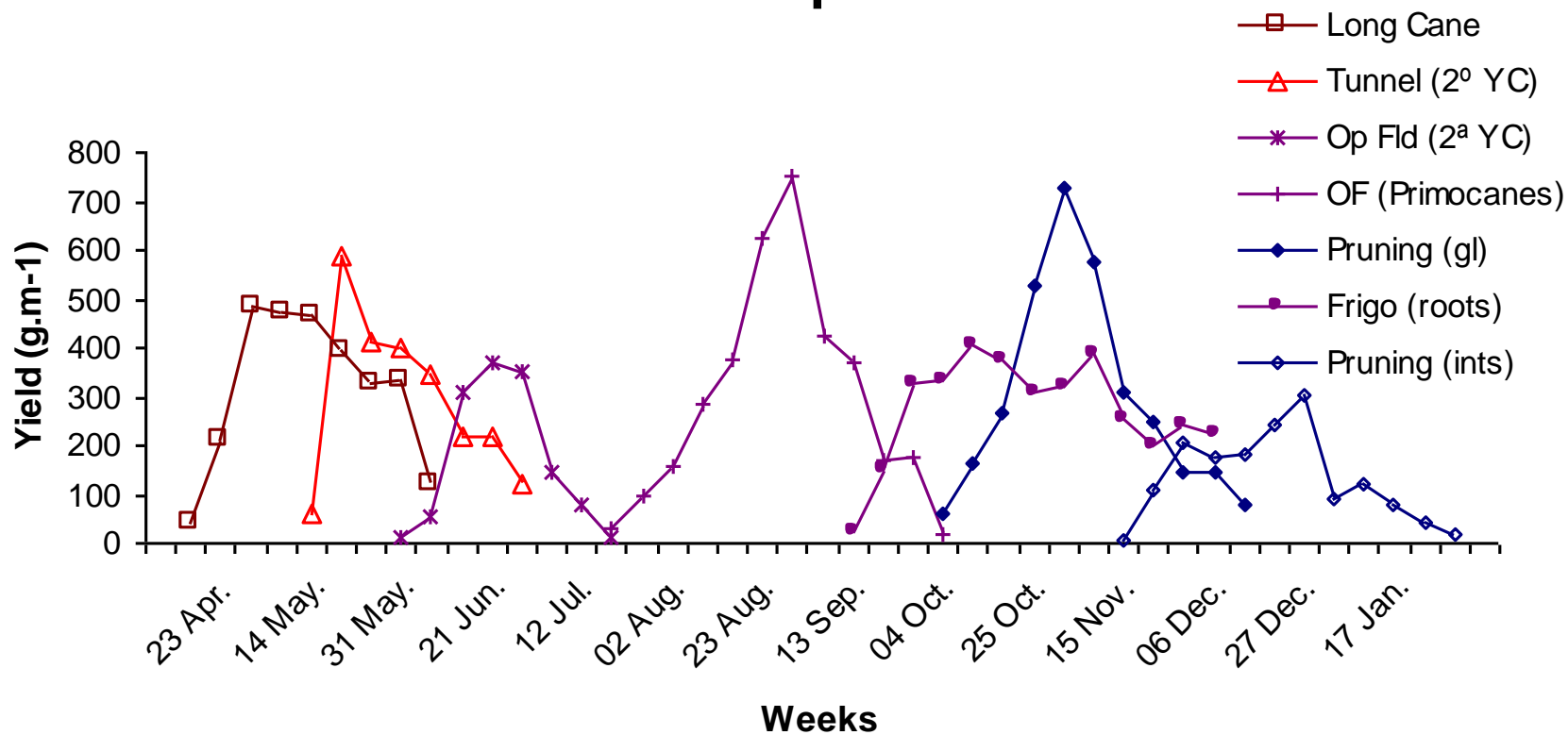
	Spring	Autumn
N <sub>10</sub> {	Autum Bliss	<b>3796</b>
	Joan J	<b>4659</b>
	Joan Squire	3478
Fr <sub>hgt</sub> {	Joan Irene	3330
	Galante	3218
	Heritage	424



## Combining different systems



# 'Joan Squire'



# 4. Other new growing systems

## Root planting



# Potted plants



May planting  
Autumn harvest



## Trial with 'Polka' tray plants (summer planting - July)

2005	Yield (kg.m <sup>-2</sup> )		Unmark (%)	Fruit weight (g)	Harvest period (% of total yield)		
	Total	Commerc.			5%	50%	95%
<i>Tipped</i>							
8 plt/m	2.0	1.7	13.8	4.3	03 Oct.	02 Nov.	30 Nov.
10 plt/m	1.8	1.5	15.8	4.6	05 Oct.	31 Oct.	09 Dec.
12 plt/m	1.9	1.7	11.0	4.7	05 Oct.	31 Oct.	09 Dec.
<i>Not tipped</i>							
8 plt/m	1.8	1.5	17.3	4.3	10 Oct.	31 Oct.	29 Nov.



# Rock wool – hydroponic culture

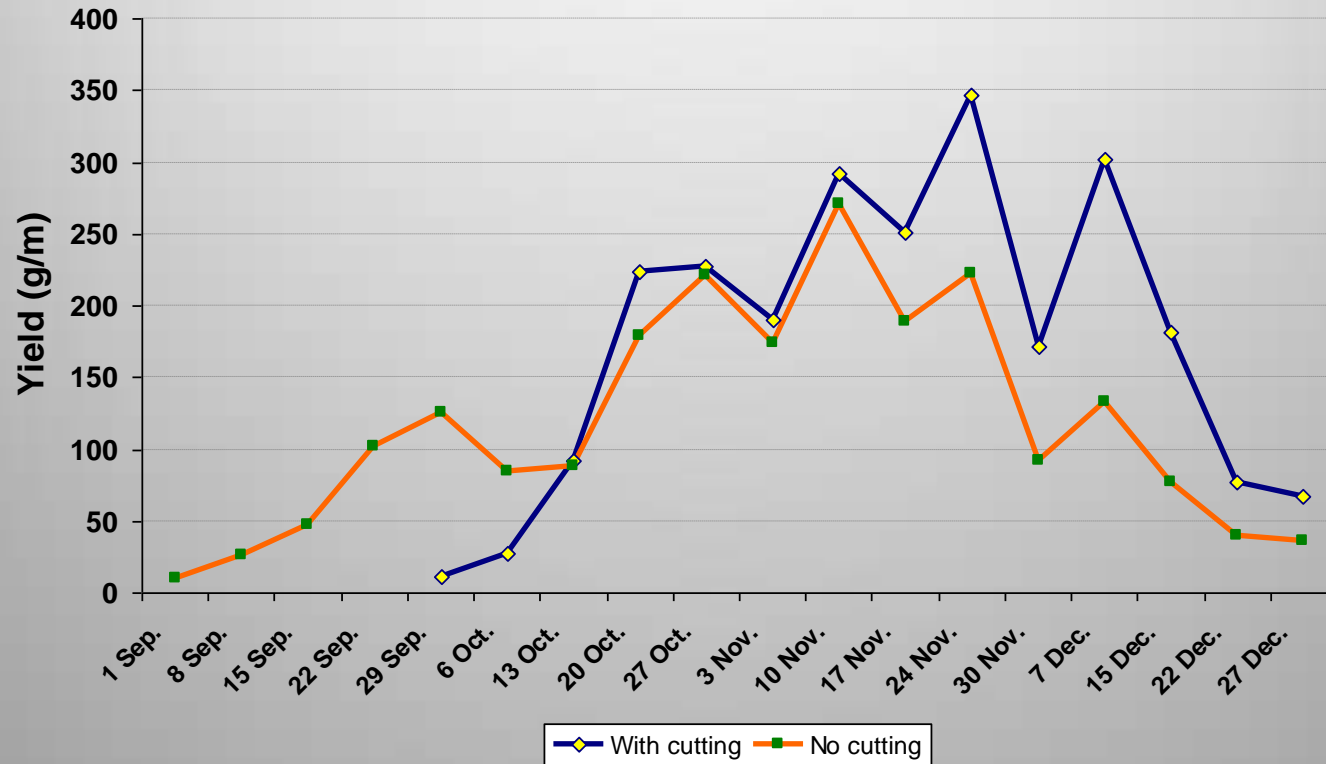


**July planting - Autumn harvest**

# Rock wool – hydroponic culture



# Rock wool – potted plants – July planting



Yield g.m<sup>-1</sup>

	With cut	Without cut
Polka	1484	1633

# High intensive systems

**Two crops a year in  
the same tunnel**



# Tray plants



Strawberry Raspberry

**Strawberry: Jan. to June**

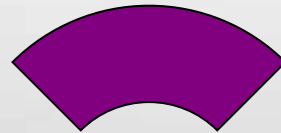
**Raspberry: June to Dec.**



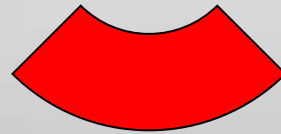




# Frigo plants



Raspberry Strawberry



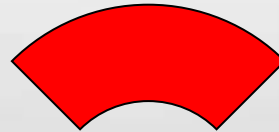
**Raspberry: Jan. to June**

**Strawberry: June to Dec.**





## Spring and Autumn production



Early

Late



January to June



June to December



# Blackberry double cropping

**The purpose is to develop a double cropping system for fruit production in early spring and late autumn, using the same plant material (floricanes + long-canes) and same tunnels.**

# What we know

- Blackberry is a biennial fruiting plant, this fruiting habit strongly influences the how and when fruit is produced,
- Mild winter climatic regions have a long vegetative growth period, starting in March and ending in November,
- Blackberry vegetative growth management is difficult since primocanes can grow more than 6m long, so much hardwood is wasted with pruning.



# The idea !

## Double cropping...

**Floricanes (Spring)**



**Rooted primocanes (Autumn)**





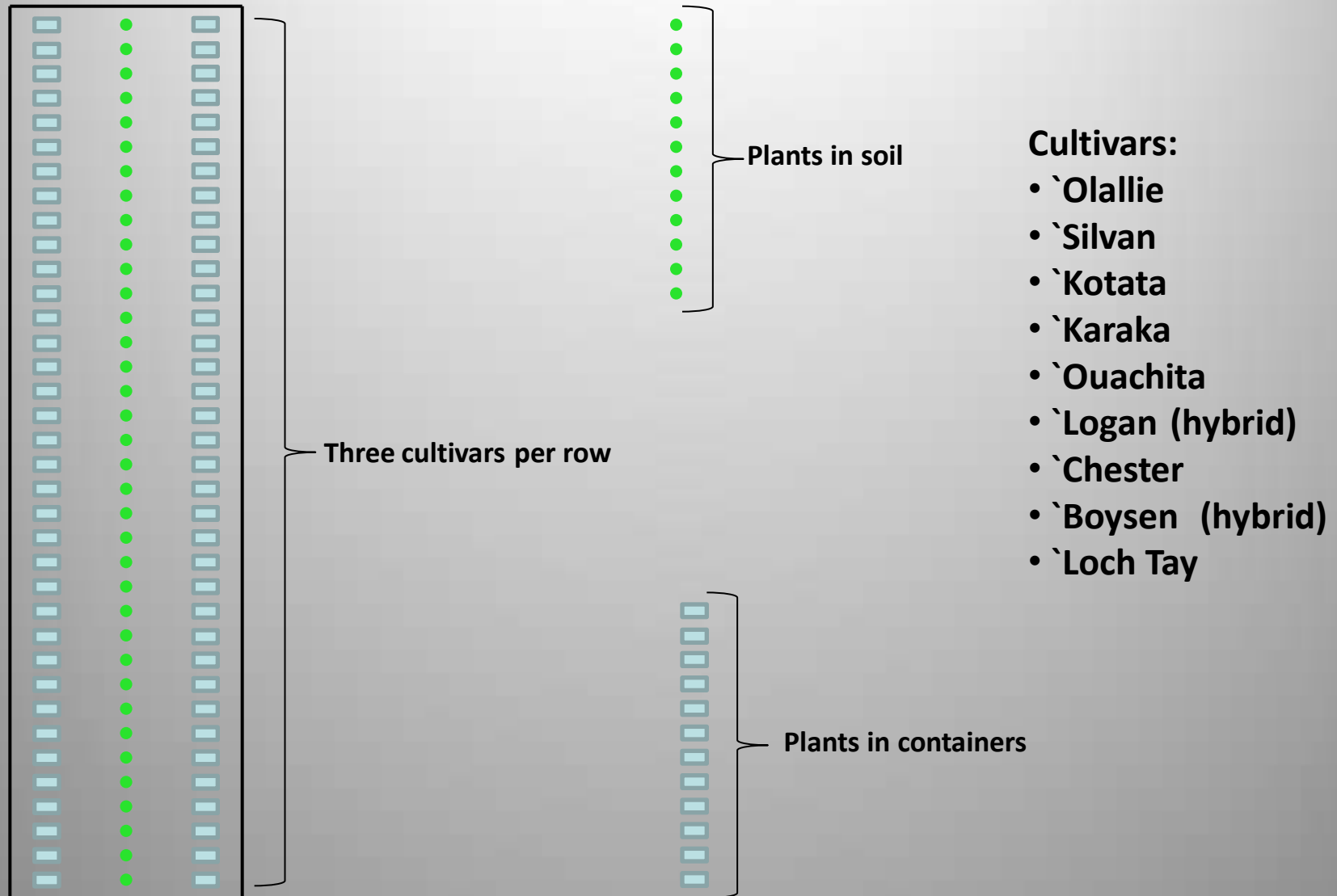
# The trial

(Gonçalves, 2011)

# Materials and methods

- Fataca, Odemira, located at Lat. 37° N, (average temperature: January 11.2 °C; July 19.4 °C),
- "Spanish tunnels", 9 cultivars (12 plants per cultivar) planted in the soil spring 2010,
- 1 row planted two rows for pots,
- Tip layering (TL); Tip layering with 15 days in cold storage after cutting (TL cold); Tip layering after cutting top 20 cm (TL 20 cm) e simple layering (SL)

## Tunnel view





# Results

Mother plant primocane characteristics for all cultivar tested.

Cultivar	Cane number	length (cm)	Base diameter (mm)	Node number
Olallie	3.1	404.2 B	10.4 C	65.4 B
Karaka Black	3.1	419.9 B	9.8 C	77.7 A
Logan Thornless	3.7	401.4 B	9.5 C	59.6 C
Boysenberry	3.5	512.7 A	10.2 C	67.9 B
Ouachita	3.8	412.7 B	18.4 A	47.0 E
Loch Tay	2.6	318.1 B	11.1 C	51.5 DE
Chester Thornless	2.9	431.4 B	15.5 B	55.4 CD
Error	0.4	14.8	0.5	2.0
Significance level	NS	P<0.001	P<0.001	P<0.001

Means followed by different letters are significantly different according to Tukey test (p<0.05).





# Results

Primocanes characteristics after rooting treatment for 'Karaka Black' and 'Loch Ness'

Cultivar	Type	Treatment	Cane number	Length (cm)	Base diameter (mm)	Node number
Karaka	dewberry	SL	6	392.2 19.4	7.95 0.32	85 3
Loch Tay	Semi-erect	SL	3	476.3 101.5	8.66 1.31	68 17

Means and standard errors

### Primocanes characteristics after rooting treatments for 'Ouachita.

Cultivar	Length (cm)	Base diameter (mm)	Node number
Tip layering	218.7 B	11.9 AB	29.1
Tip layering 20 cm	312.3 A	13.8 A	34.1
Simple layering	252.9 AB	9.6 B	34.0
Significance level	0.019	0.007	NS

Means followed by different letters are significantly different according to Tukey test ( $p < 0.05$ ).

Primocanes characteristics after rooting treatments for 'Chester thornless'.

Cultivar	Length (cm)	Base diameter (mm)	Node number
Tip layering	221.5 B	17.6 A	35.5 B
Tip layering 20 cm	293.3 AB	15.0 A	39.0 B
Simple layering	479.3 A	11.4 B	61.0 A
Significance level	0.028	P<0.001	0.02

Means followed by different letters are significantly different according to Tukey test ( $p<0.05$ ).

## Key questions answered:

- Vegetative growth is enough (time and vigor) to form two shoots (more than 2 m each) in the same year,
- Simple layering is the best technique for the production of a new shoot in July,
- New shoots must be separated from the mother plant in August,
- Layering did not affected shoot production of the mother plant,
- In the end of the season (December) a new long cane is produced ready for cold storage.

## Can wild *Rubus* sp. become a new crop?

Portugal has a large number of wild *Rubus* species which are extremely rich in nutraceutical compounds.

(Trindade, 2013)



# Wild *Rubus* sp.



# Wild *Rubus* sp.

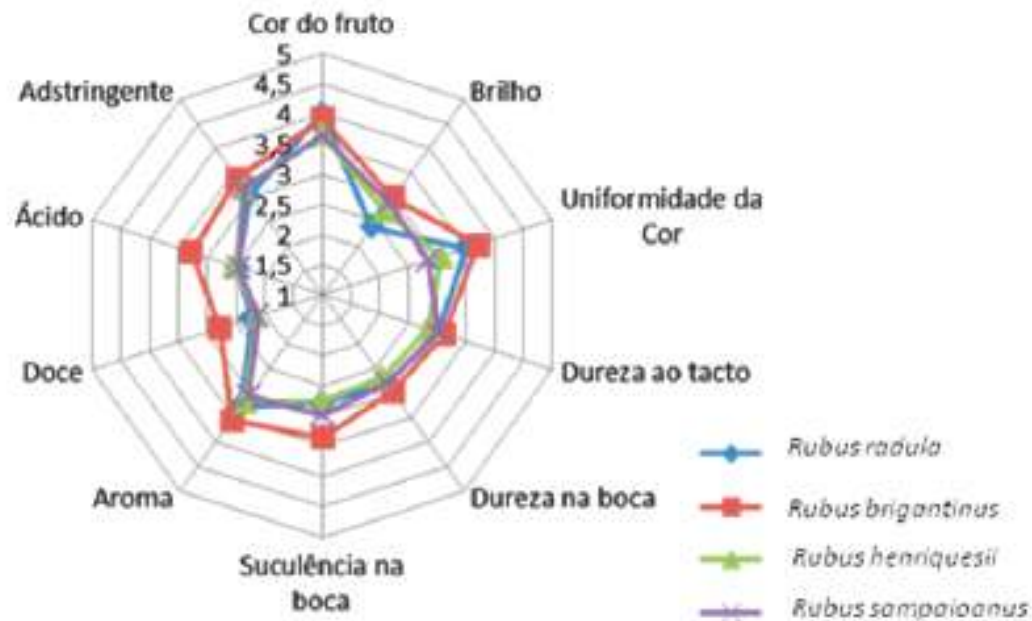
Total and commercial yield (g), waist percentage and berry weight (g), in five of the species studied.

Specie	Yield (g/plant)		Waist (%)	Berry weight (g)
	Total	Commercial		
<i>R.vigoi</i>	150 b	34 b	77 a	1,8 ab
<i>R.radula</i>	1516 a	911 a	40 b	1,7 ab
<i>R.henriquesii</i>	1543 a	928 a	40 b	1,9 ab
<i>R.sampaioanus</i>	1467 a	845 a	43 b	2,1 a
<i>R.brigitinus</i>	1232 a	657 a	49 b	1,6 b
Level of Significance	<0,000	<0,000	<0,000	0,018

Means followed by different letters are significantly different according to Tukey test ( $p < 0.05$ ).

(Trindade, 2013)

# Wild *Rubus* sp.



Sensorial analysis for the different species, showing *R. henriquesii* and *R. brigitinus* as the better performing species.

# *Wild Rubus sp.*



Marketing is mandatory to differentiate sales



# Blueberry





# Blueberries are mainly produced in open field



# Main cultivars

## Northern Highbush (NHB)

Berkley  
Goldtraub  
Bluecrop  
Bluetta  
Brigitta  
Patriot  
Duke  
Elisabeth  
Elliot  
Legacy  
Aurora

## Southern Highbush (SHB)

Sharpblue  
Misty  
O' Neal  
Ozarkablue  
Reveille  
Star  
Paloma  
Camelia

## Rabbiteye

Powderblue  
Tifblue  
Columbus  
Brightwell  
Ochlockonee  
Centra Blue

# Early and late blueberry production under tunnels

## Early trials

1 – Early blueberry production with Southern Highbush Blueberry under tunnels. Oliveira *et al.*, 2004.

2 – Can we use autumn flowering habit of ‘Sharpblue’ to Increase early blueberry production? Oliveira *et al.*, 2004.

# Early blueberry production with Southern Highbush Blueberry under tunnels.

Oliveira *et al.*, 2004



Actas do II Colóquio Nacional da Produção de Morango  
e Outros Pequenos Frutos.



## Early blueberry production with Southern Highbush Blueberry under tunnels.

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- The main objective was to evaluate harvest date and productivity of four SHB cultivars (O'Neal, Cape Fear, Georgiagem and Reveille) in order to know the best adapted to the Portuguese climatic conditions.
- Plants were grown in tunnels (6.5 x 30 x 3 m), with two rows,
- Tunnels were covered only in January and plastic was removed in March.

# Results

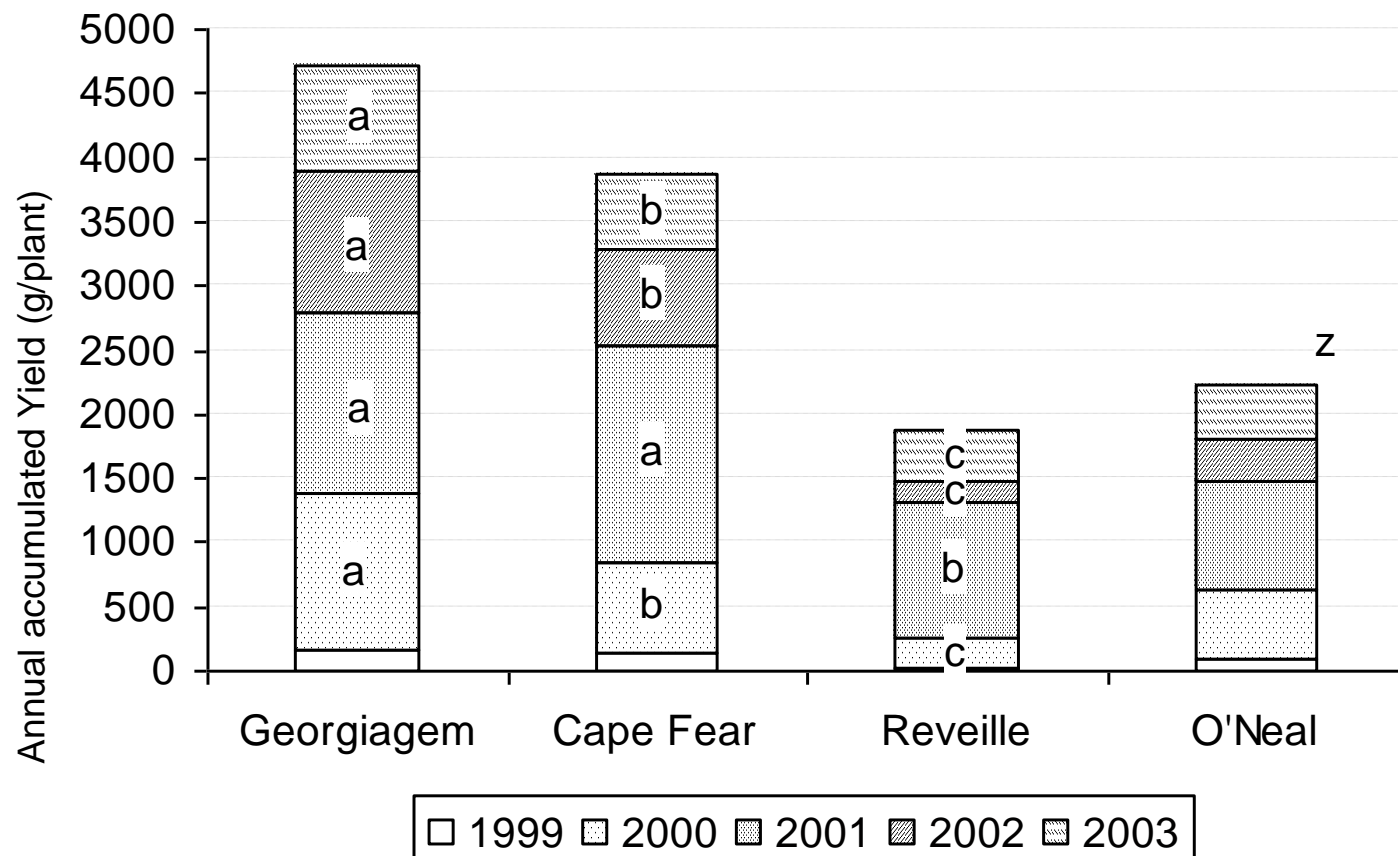
Cultivar	N° days to 50% harvest	Harvest dates			N° days in harvest
		5%	50%	95%	
<b>Georgiagem</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>30-Apr</b>	<b>14-May</b>	<b>28-May</b>	<b>29</b>
<i>SD</i>	( 6)	( 9)	(+6)	(+6)	( 9)
<b>Cape Fear</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>30-Apr</b>	<b>07-May</b>	<b>24-May</b>	<b>25</b>
<i>SD</i>	( 6)	(+8)	(+7)	(+7)	(-7)
<b>Reveille</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>30-Apr</b>	<b>14-May</b>	<b>28-May</b>	<b>29</b>
<i>SD</i>	( 4)	(+8)	(+6)	(+7)	( 4)
<b>O'Neal</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>19-Apr</b>	<b>30-Apr</b>	<b>17-May</b>	<b>17</b>
<i>SD</i>	( 4)	( 10)	(+9)	(+5)	( 8)

# Results

Harvest period, yield per plant and berry weight for the three harvest times in 2002.

Cultivares	Harvest time	Harvest period	Yield (g/plant)	Berry weight (g)
Georgiagem	1.º	17 Abr - 7 Jun	1089	1,1
	2.º	23 Ago - 20 Set	215	1,5
	3.º	27 Nov - 18Dez	62	0,9
Cape Fear	1.º	19 Abr - 7 Jun	736	1,7
	2.º	23 Ago - 20 Set	407	1,6
	3.º	27 Nov - 18Dez	36	1,0
Reveille	1.º	19 Abr - 7 Jun	180	1,2
	2.º	23 Ago - 20 Set	88	1,2
	3.º	27 Nov - 18Dez	11	1,0
O'Neal	1.º	17 Abr - 2 Jun	505	1,2
	2.º	26 Ago - 20 Set	45	1,5
	3.º	27 Nov - 18Dez	16	0,9

# Results



## First conclusions in 2003

- All SHB cultivars studied had three different harvest periods in 2002 which led to a decrease in yield in 2003,
- The low productivity of O'Neal and Reveille suggests that their chilling requirements were not completely fulfilled,
- The five years accumulated yield was considerably low for a commercial profitable industry,
- New SHB cultivars are needed more adapted to mild winter climatic regions.



# Can we use autumn flowering habit of 'Sharpblue' to increase early blueberry production?

Oliveira *et al.*, 2004



## Can we use autumn flowering habit of 'Sharpblue' to increase early blueberry production?

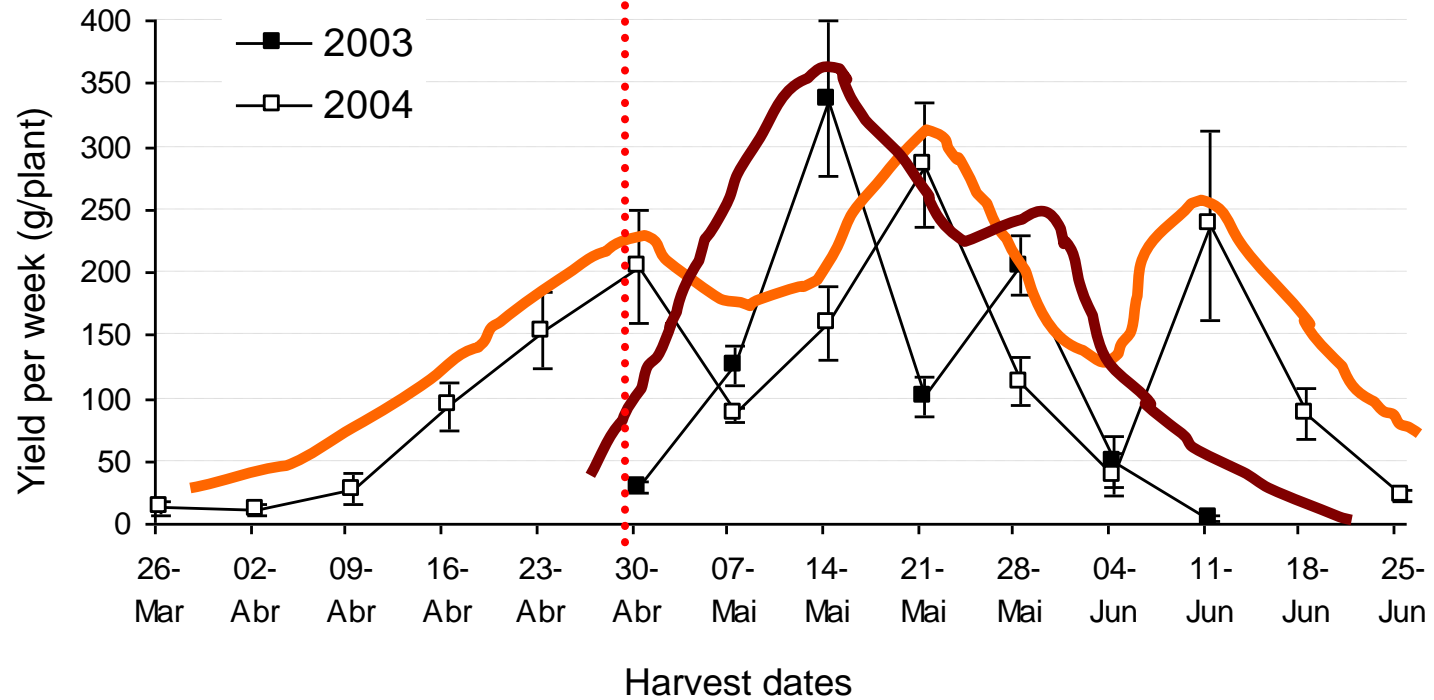
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- The main objective was to evaluate the possibility to have an early crop with the autumn flowers of cultivar Sharpblue,
- Plants were grown in tunnels (6.5 x 30 x 3 m), with two rows,
- Tunnels were covered only in January and October 2003 and plastic was removed in March 2003 and 2004.
- A standard was established in open field.

# Results

System	year	N° days to 50% harvest	Dates			N° days in harvest
			5%	50%	95%	
Open field	2003	11	14-May	28-May	11-Jun	27
	2004	14	7-May	21-May	11-Jun	33
Tunnel	2003	11	7-May	14-May	28-May	22
	2004	37	16-Apr	21-May	18-Jun	44

# Results



Yield per week and per plant for 'Sharpblue' in tunnel in the two years trial.

# Early and late blueberry production under tunnels

**Present trials**



Received plants in 2011



Change for larger pot size  
in Spring 2012



Plants enter the greenhouse



Beggining of  
plant growth



General view of  
the greenhouse  
during the first  
year vegetative  
growth - 2012 -







Plants were  
placed in cold  
storage for the  
different  
treatments



# Early production

## - Southern Highbush -

Parente, 2013

# Objective

- Determine the effect of cold storage on harvest date and productivity in three SHB cultivars.

## Materials and methods

- Three SHB cultivars: O'Neal, Star and Paloma,
- Substrate culture in 12 liter pots,
- Two standard treatments (open field and greenhouse) and two cold storage periods at 2 °C; E1 (13 Dec / 9 Jan); E2 (10 Jan / 30 Jan),



Vegetative and floral length (cm), diameter (mm), number of fruits per trust, number of vegetative and floral buds for each cultivar.

Cultivar	length		Diameter (mm)	Nº buds		Nº fruits
	Vegetative (cm)	Floral (cm)		Vegetative	Floral	
Star	10,6 AB	13,0 A	3,5	6,4	7,4 A	4,8 B
Paloma	14,8 A	8,0 B	3,4	5,5	5,4 B	5,7 A
O'Neal	7,3 B	6,8 B	2,5	5,0	4,7 B	5,1 B
<b>Prob (F)</b>	0,0011	P<0,001	NS	NS	P<0,001	P<0,001
<b>EP</b>	1,92	1,37	0,47	1,1	0,57	0,23

Means followed by different letters are significantly different according to Tukey test ( $p<0.05$ ).

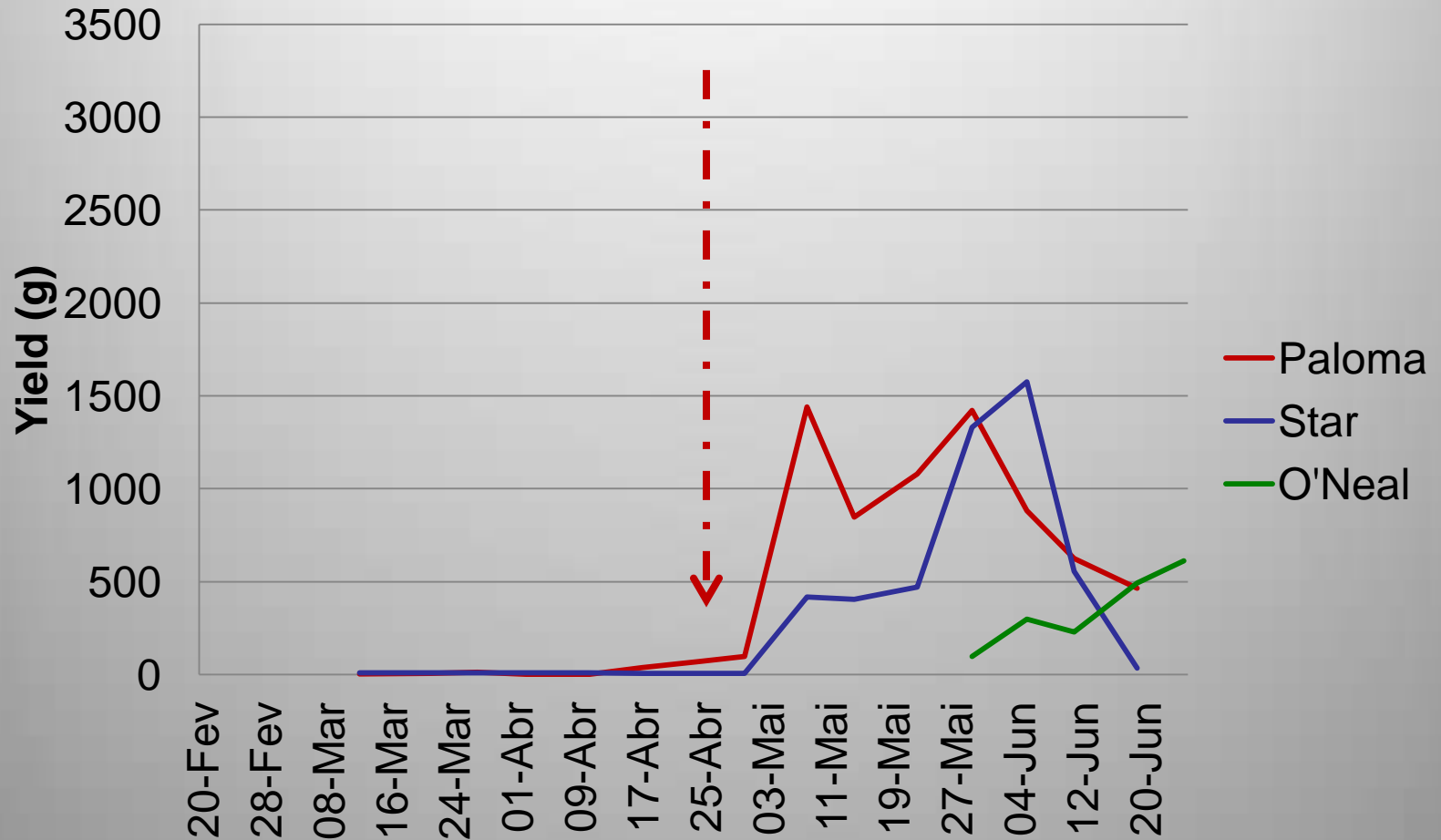
Total yield per plant (g) and berry weight. Standard open field (S\_open field); standard greenhouse (S\_greenhouse); Entrance 1 (E\_1) – natural cold + 690h; and Entrance 2 (E\_2) – natural cold + 480h.

Treatament	Cultivar	Yield (g/plant)	Berry weight (g)
S_open field →	Star	2853 A	1,35 ABCD
	Paloma	1151 CD	1,24 ABCD
	O'Neal	288 D	1,38 ABC ←
S_greenhouse →	Star	2302 A	1,49 AB
	Paloma	2289 AB	1,36 ABC
	O'Neal	787 D	1,03 CD ←
E1 (9 Jan) →	Star	1835 ABC	1,61 A
	Paloma	2194 AB	1,58 A
	O'Neal	936 CD	1,08 BCD ←
E2 (30 Jan) →	Star	2274 AB	1,23 ABCD
	Paloma	2381 A	1,08 BCD
	O'Neal	1257 BCD	0,93 D ←
Prob (F)		P<0,001	0,0156
EP		215,26	0,1263

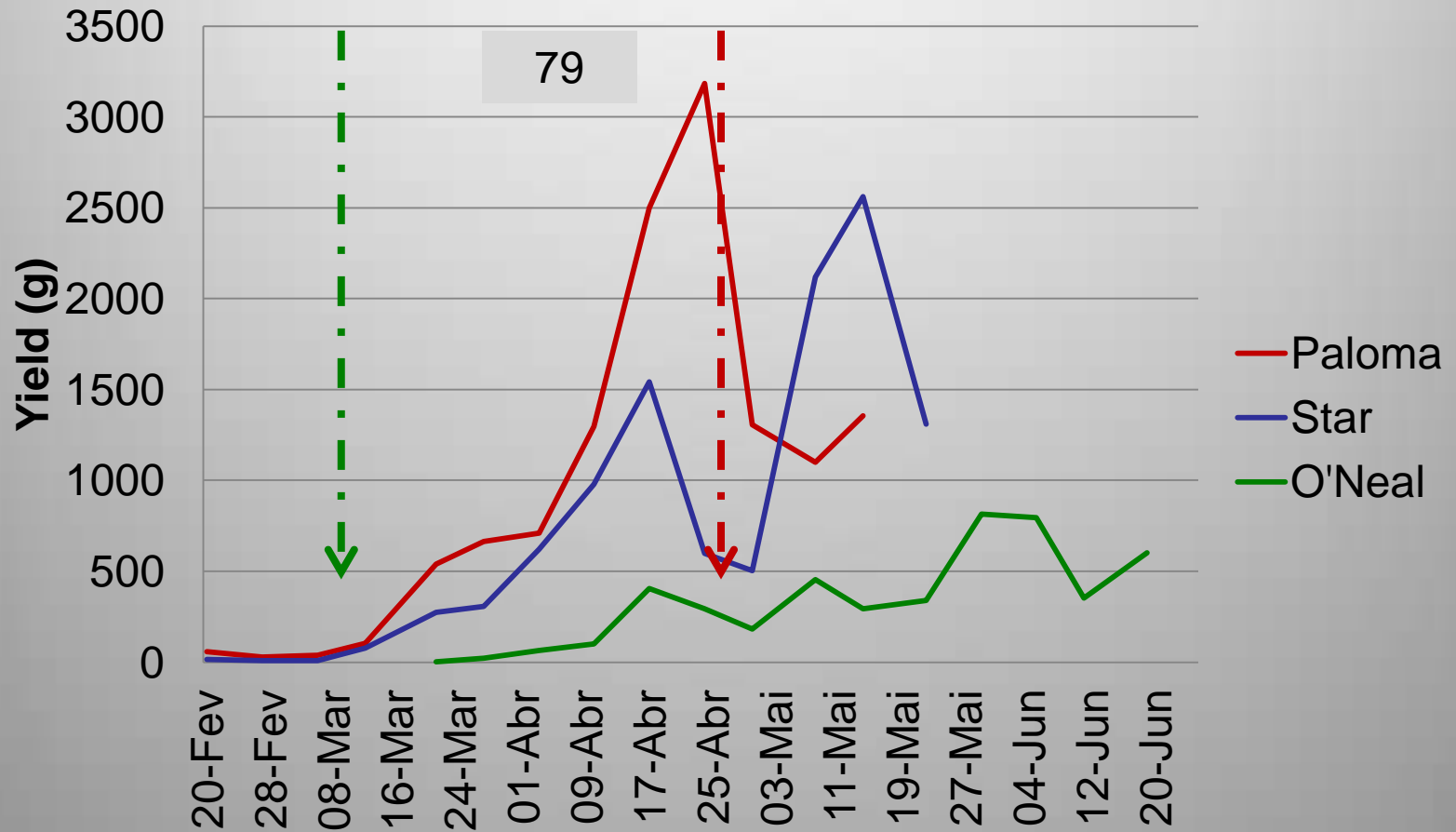
Means followed by different letters are significantly different according to Tukey test ( $p<0.05$ ).



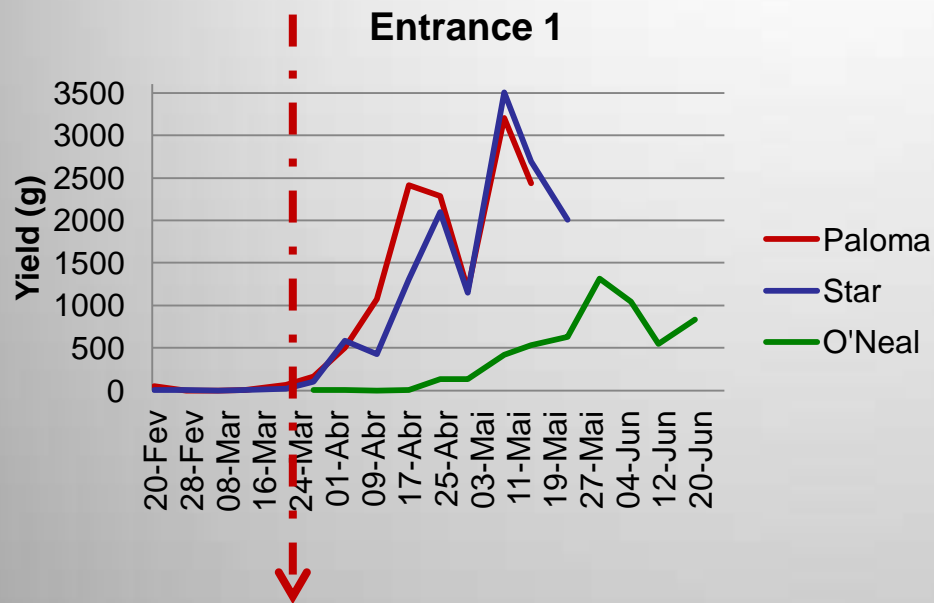
## Standard open field



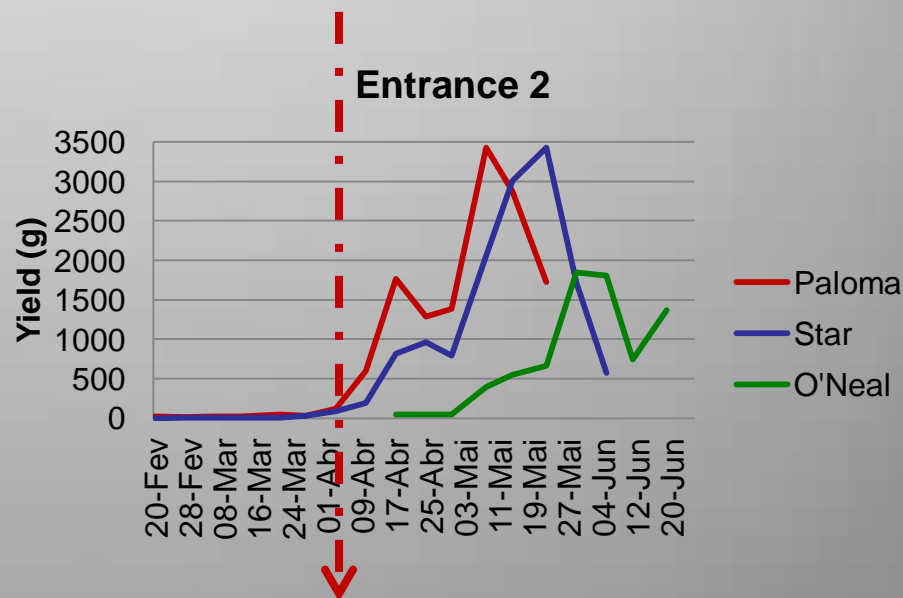
## Standard greenhouse







24 of March



1 of April

# Conclusions

- Cultivar Star had the longest floral length but 'Paloma' had the highest number of fruit per trust.
- 'Paloma' showed low yields in open field but high yield in all other treatments,
- 'Star' had the highest yield in open field,
- All cultivars started two and an half month earlier (79 days) in the greenhouse compared with the open field,
- Cold treatments postponed harvest when compared with the greenhouse plants.



Heavy  
pruning  
was done  
at the end  
of harvest  
(June)



# Late production

## - Northern Highbush -

# Objetive

- Try to delay harvest with cold storage using three NHB cultivars.

## Materials and methods

- Three NHB cultivars: Legacy, Elizabeth e Duke,
- Substrate culture in 12 liter pots,
- Two standard treatments (open field and greenhouse) and four cold storage periods at 2 °C; S1 (15 May), S2 (1 Jun.); S3 (15 Jun.) and S4 (30 Jun.).

**Vegetative and floral length (cm), diameter (mm), number of fruits per trust, number of vegetative and floral buds per cultivar.**

<b>Cultivar</b>	<b>Length</b>		<b>Diameter (mm)</b>	<b>Nº buds</b>		<b>Nº fruits</b>
	<b>Vegetative (cm)</b>	<b>Floral (cm)</b>		<b>Vegetative</b>	<b>Floral</b>	
Legacy	10,1 B	9,9	2,9 B	4,3 B	7,1 AB	4,4
Elizabeth	19,6 A	12,8	4,4 A	7,0 A	6,8 B	5,2
Duke	13,3 B	13,3	4,2 A	4,6 AB	8,7 A	4,7
<b>Prob (F)</b>	P<0,001	NS	P<0,001	0,03	0,03	NS
<b>EP</b>	2,23	1,67	0,23	1,08	0,77	0,57

Means followed by different letters are significantly different according to Tukey test (p<0.05).



S1



S2



S3



General view of the trial



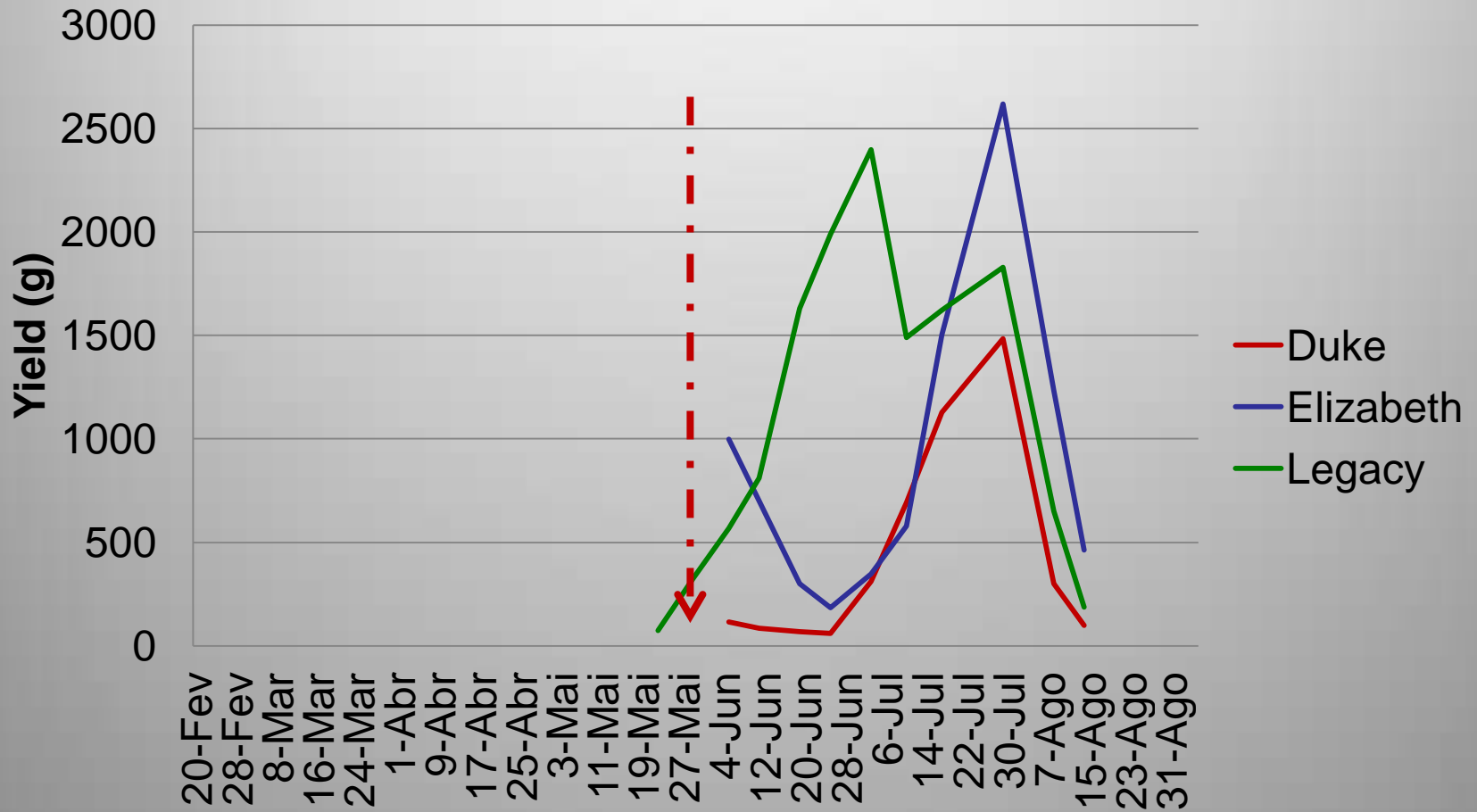


Cultivar Duke at flowering in S3 treatment and fruiting at S1 treatment (photos taken in the same day)

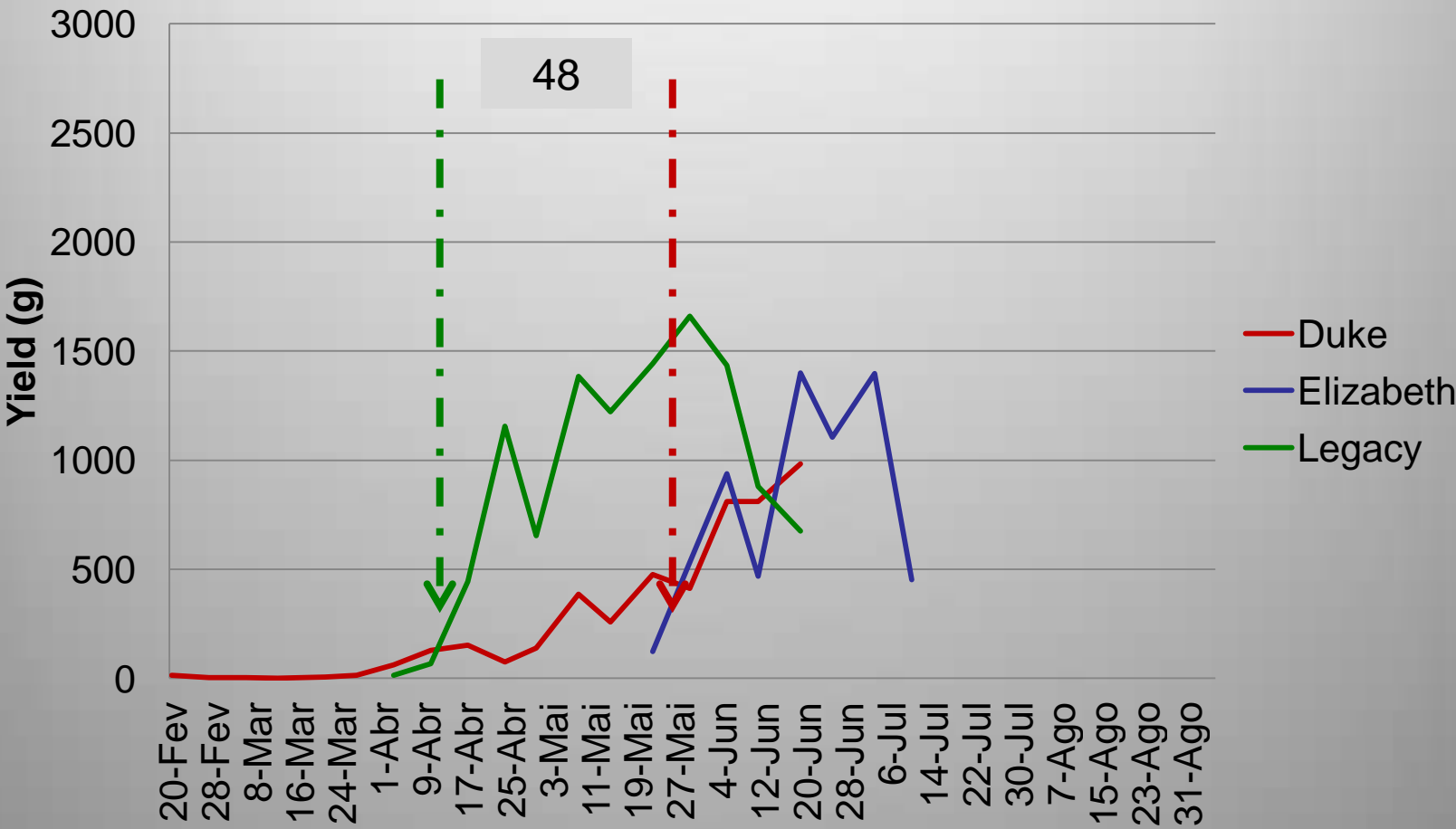
Total yield per plant (g) per treatment. Treatments: Standard open field (S\_open field); Standard greenhouse (S\_greenhouse); Out 1 (S\_1) – natural cold + 2904h; Out 2 (S\_2) – natural cold + 3288h; Out 3 (S\_3) - natural cold + 3648h

Treatament	Cultivar	Yield (g/plant)		
S_open field	Legacy	2167	AB	←
	Elizabeth	1323	BCD	
	Duke	704	D	←
S_greenhouse	Legacy	1839	ABC	
	Elizabeth	986	CD	
	Duke	789	CD	←
S_1	Legacy	2593	A	←
	Elizabeth	1437	BCD	
	Duke	2585	A	←
S_2	Legacy	932	CD	
	Elizabeth	1122,3	BCD	
	Duke	1283,2	BCD	←
S_3	Legacy	419,3	D	
	Elizabeth	399,2	D	
	Duke	609,7	D	←
	<b>Prob (F)</b>	P<0,001		
	<b>EP</b>	302,04		

## Standard open field



# Standard greenhouse



Dates of 5, 50 and 95% harvest for cultivar Duke in standards and at the three cold chamber coming out dates ; S1 (15 May), S2 (1 Jun.) and S3 (15 Jun,).

Cultivar	S_open field			S_greenhouse		
	5%	50%	95%	5%	50%	95%
Duke	25.Jun	17.Jul	29.Jul	10.Apr	5.Jun	19.Jun

Cultivar	S1			S2			S3		
	5%	50%	95%	5%	50%	95%	5%	50%	95%
Duke	17.Jul	29.Jul	14.Aug	17.Jul	8.Aug	14.Aug	8.Aug	14.Aug	21.Aug



# Conclusions

- Cultivar Elizabeth had the bigger vegetative growth with bigger vegetative and floral length but showed the lowest yield in almost all treatments,
- ‘Duke’ presented low yields in open field and greenhouse standards. The S1 treatment (15 May) was the best treatment, with the later treatments showing and detrimental effect of too much chilling,
- ‘Legacy’ showed a typical SHB behavior.
- With NHB cultivars harvest in the greenhouse was one and an half month (48 days) before open field.

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