

# Small Fruit Horticulture Internship

## Washington State University Northwest Research and Extension Center

### Clara TeVelde, Summer 2017

#### Introduction:

The Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center is located in Mt. Vernon, WA. The Small Fruit Horticulture program is ran by Lisa DeVetter. This program collaborates with many different small fruit producers in both Whatcom and Skagit counties for a variety of different research projects. The overall goal of this program is to help the producers grow the best crop they can by providing them with the latest research and information available.



The blueberry cultivar trial at the NWREC



Laying biodegradable mulches for a graduate student’s project



Flat bed layer for biodegradable mulch application in red raspberry

#### Responsibilities:

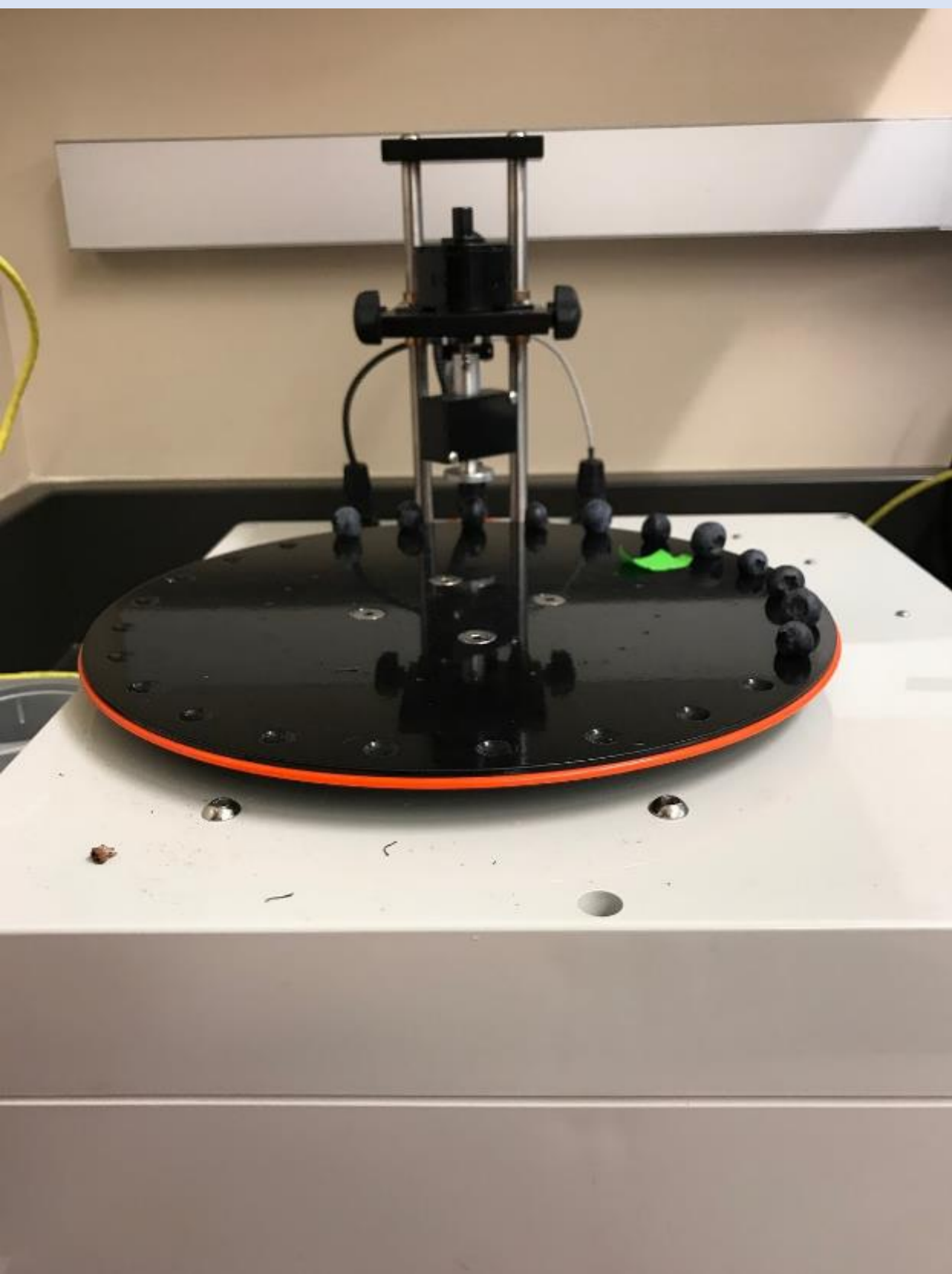
The main project that I was managing for the summer was the Blueberry cultivar trial. This project was focused on analyzing the commercial potential of different highbush blueberry cultivars developed outside of Whatcom and Skagit counties by evaluating their adaptability to this growing region. To do this different information was collected including yield and fruit quality. After the data are completely gathered it will be analyzed for commercial potential and shared with growers in an extension article that I will author. During the time I was not working on the Blueberry cultivar trial, I was also assisting with multiple other graduate student projects. Some of these projects included biodegradable mulch, pollination, and small fruit fertility. I even developed and established another trial assessing the placement of phosphorus fertilizer (banded verses incorporated) in raspberry, which will generate interesting preliminary data for other projects. All these studies helped me gain a better understand small fruit physiology as a whole.

#### Professional Development:

This internship has really helped me develop a better sense of my professional self through many different experiences. The first experience that I believe helped me was communicating concisely to both producers and the general public. The field day is one example of this because I needed to explain one of my projects in a short amount of time. Another professional development skill that I learned was how to be flexible to changing plans. The number of different tasks and schedules that need to be accommodated makes flexibility a required trait. Finally, the most helpful professional development trait I developed was how to work well with anyone. During slow periods, I would work with multiple different programs which was a great experience because it taught me how to adapt to the different situations and still work to the best of my ability.



Harvesting the blueberry cultivar trial



Measuring blueberry firmness with the FirmTech



Counting the number of bumble bee visits per minute for various blueberry cultivars



Counting the number of honeybee pollination visits per minute for various blueberry cultivars



Collecting yield estimation data for raspberry fumigation and nematode management projects

