




## Winter Pruning to Promote Crop Concentration in Southern Highbush Blueberry


Gerardo H. Nunez, Martin Zapfen, Patricio Munoz  
Horticultural Sciences Department, UF/IFAS

FBGA Summer Grower Meeting  
July 2024





### Blueberries ripen at different times on the plant






1  
Green




2  
Color transition

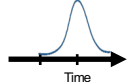


3  
Blue

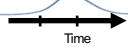
(Photo: M. Zapfen)



### Uneven ripening affects blueberry production timing



Time



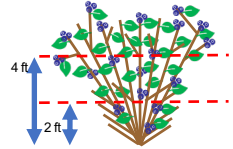
Time

### Ripening varied within the canopy

**'FARTHING'**

42% ripe fruit at week 14

15% ripe fruit at week 15

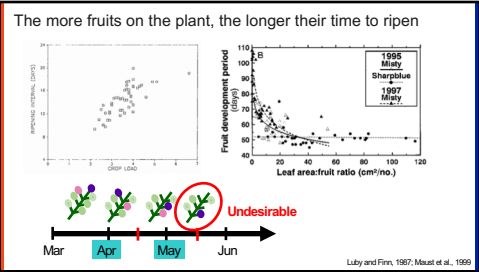


4 ft  
2 ft

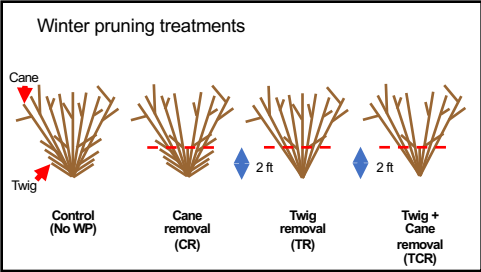
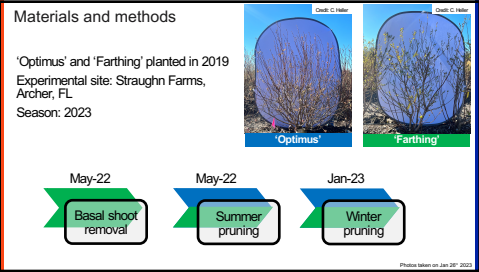
**'OPTIMUS'**

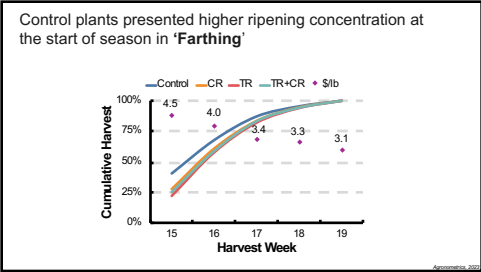
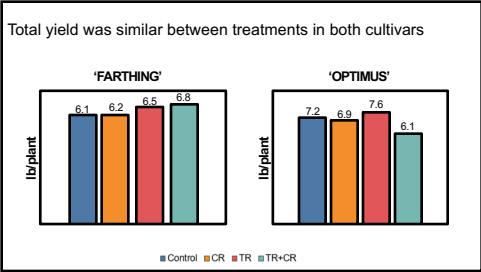
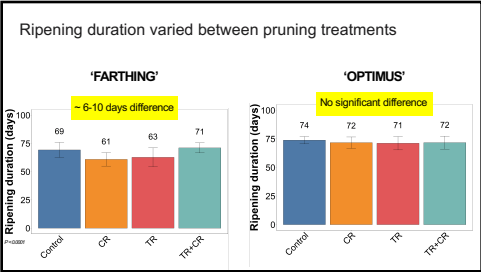
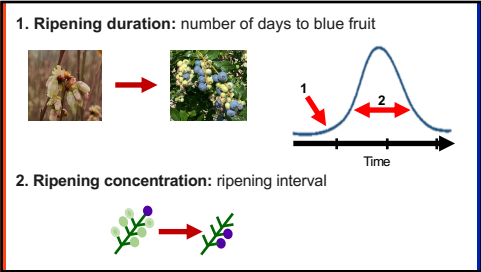
39% ripe fruit at week 14

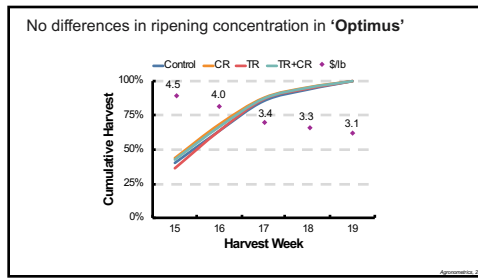
15% ripe fruit at week 15



Can winter pruning produce a shorter and more concentrated fruit ripening?







### Summary

- Winter pruning affected ripening duration in 'Farthing' but not in 'Optimus'.
- Winter pruning did not affect yield.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Straughn Farms  
Small Fruit Horticulture Lab  
Blueberry Breeding Program

Thanks! Questions?



*Blueberry*  
BREEDING PROGRAM