



Our Farm

- Mainly wholesale fruits and vegetables with a retail store
- Recent addition of blackberries to our operation
 - Good for retail sales and manageable with current operation
- 2017 - .27 acre
- 2018 - .18 acre

Field Preparation

- Previously orchard ground
- Dirt work for drainage followed by early spring tillage
- Landscape fabric and drip tape laid
 - Raised bed mulch layer
 - 12 ft spacing

Planting

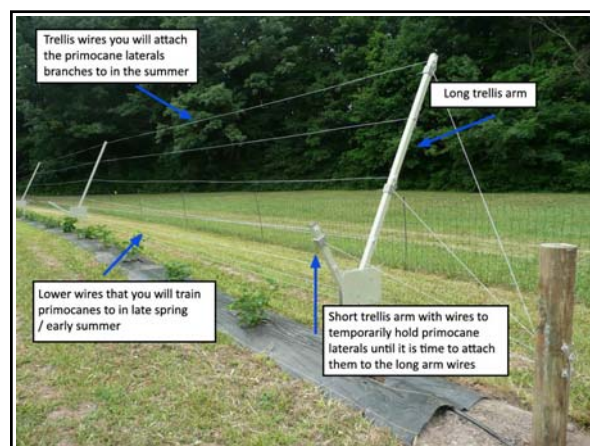
- 4ft spacing
 - Natchez – Bare Root
 - Late - March
 - Oachita – Tissue Culture Plug
 - Mid - April
- Assemble trellis
 - 20-30ft spacing with tie back post
 - North/South orientation
 - Possibly NW/SE orientation?

RCA Trellis System

Growing & Harvesting Position
In the Growing/ Harvesting position, the berries are on the sun-protected side of the canopy — the perfect position for harvesting.

Wintering Position
In the Winter/Spring position, the canes are protected from the wind and winter cold and are positioned to set shoots on the upper side of the canopy.

Horizontal Option Position
In the Bud Break (Horizontal) position, the canes are slightly off the ground to encourage air circulation, as well as shoot and flower development on the upper side of the canopy.



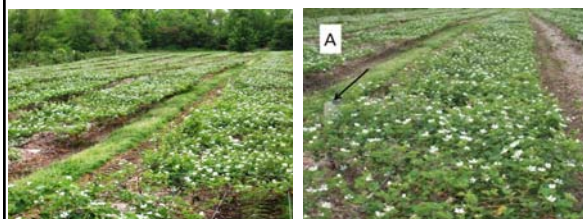
Winter

- Allows production where winter injury (single digit and sub-zero temperatures) occurs



Bud break

- Allows blooms to set on one side of the trellis



Harvest

- Allows for easier/more efficient harvest
- Reduces sunscald



First Year

- Primocane shoots allowed to grow
- Trained to trellis arms without any pruning
- June through August
 - Attach to long trellis arm
- Early December
 - Head off overhanging laterals
 - Trellis set into Winter position
 - Cover with Winter Cover

Second Year

- Early March
 - Uncover (Leave row cover in row)
 - Move to bud break position
- May
 - Once blooms have set, move to harvest position
 - Begin training primocanes on West side of trellis
- June-July
 - Harvest
 - Continue training primocanes on West side of trellis
- August or end of harvest
 - Cut out all spent floricanes
 - Move primocanes to East side of trellis

Training

- 3 Primocanes allowed
 - 6-12 in above training wire, then bent down the row and banded to training wires
 - Tipped when it reaches adjacent plant
 - Remove downward facing laterals
 - Begin to train upright laterals
 - Attach to trellis arm wires

Winter Care

- Head off tops of all laterals
- Lay down trellis by mid-December, once dormant, and cover with row cover
- Remove cover when 3 or more consecutive days above 50-60 degrees is forecasted
 - Otherwise, buds emerge and result in winter injury upon freezing temperatures
- Remove cover in early March
 - Keep in walk-way to re-apply during Spring frosts



Our Modifications

- Saves approximately \$3500-\$4000 per acre in initial structural investment
- Reduces need to move primocanes to other side of trellis after harvest
 - Reduces labor (pre- and post-harvest)
 - Reduces chance of cane injury

Typical I or T Trellis

- Advantages
 - Less training labor
 - Much cheaper structural investment
- Disadvantages
 - Less fruiting laterals/row ft compared to RCA
 - Little ability for sun protection
 - Little ability for winter cover
 - Increased harvest labor