

Foliar Nutrient Sprays in Blueberries & Strawberries – Worth the Money?

Mark Longstroth, Michigan State University - Paw Paw, MI

Many berry growers use foliar nutrient sprays as a regular part of the berry management to supplement plant nutrition or enhance fruit yield or quality. There are good reasons to use foliar nutrients to correct nutrient deficiencies or provide a timely boost to plants under stress but applying numerous foliar nutrient sprays when none are needed wastes time and money. Mark will share his thoughts on plant nutrition and the best uses of nutrient sprays and some of their limitations.



Mark Longstroth is a Small Fruit Extension Educator for Michigan State University Extension in Southwest Michigan. He earned a BS in Biology from Boise State University in 1976. He has worked in the fruit industry since 1978. He began working for The University of Idaho as summer help and was then hired full time as a technician working with tree fruit. He managed and performed all the maintenance tasks in apple, cherry, and plum orchards. Mark earned an MS from the U of I in 1987 then moved to Michigan in 1988 to pursue a degree in Horticulture working with cherry rootstocks. Mark became a District Fruit Agent for MSU Extension in 1993 and has over 27 years of Extension experience working in the Michigan fruit industry. Prior to 2010, he covered all tree fruit, grape and berry crops in Southwest Michigan. Mark now focuses on blueberries, grapes, and other berry crops. His main education efforts are in crop production, pest management and farm financial management. He has developed cost of production budgets for blueberries and other fruit crops. Mark is especially interested in the impacts of weather and climate on fruit production. Mark's wants to help growers remain profitable and adapt to changes in agriculture.