

**Workshop Title: Haskap Plants and Growing Systems**

**Speaker & their title:** Bob Bors, Univeristy of Saskatchewan

**Executive Summary:** Haskaps have a whole lot of potential and grow well in Canada.

**Haskap Project for U of Saskatchewan**

Started in 1997. World's largest collection of haskap by 2008. Have 20 acres of Haskap.

Before harvester, they used umbrellas and shook the plant above the umbrella.

Kiddie pools also work.

Haskap manual: Dr Bors project for 2015 and 2016.

**About Haskap**

Before you plant, think about what your market is and what product you're going to sell.

In Prairies, popular mechanical harvested fruits: June: Haskap. July: Saskatoon. August: Sour Cherry

Some growers are growing Haskaps because it fits well with other things they're growing. Grain farmers choose haskap because it doesn't interfere with harvest.

Multiple crop advantage: spreads out risk and labour; allows multiple use of same equipment.

With more breeding, you should be able to do Haskap all summer long.

Haskap is normally in the Boreal forest. Can't grow it in a lot of the states because it's too warm.

The Maritimes: lots of Haskap can be found in the wild. Can survive in windy locations.

Haskap can be healthy at 30 years old.

**Planting Haskap**

Don't want wrap around roots on the plug

Can plant deep so they don't heave up in fall.

Use potato trencher to plant.

Don't be alarmed if the plants don't grow a lot in the first season.

Haskap is native to the edges of wetlands. Just because it grows there, however, doesn't mean it wants to be there. Does better in well drained soil. It

has a shallow but wide root system. Haskap is not invasive. It can't compete with trees or grass. Therefore, you want to avoid weeds.

### **Planting Time**

First plant to start growing and first plant to stop growing.

Russian literature recommends fall planting. At U of Saskatchewan, we plant whenever we have time.

Season one: Don't do much.

Season two: A little growth

Season three: Much larger. Fruits are usually on branches but too low for machine to pick.

Year 4 and 5: Machine can pick 75% of fruit or more.

### **Pollination**

Haskap plants need cross-pollination.

Each berry is derived from 2 flowers. One haskap has 2 berries inside it. It's not as fragile as strawberry with one layer of skin – haskap has 4.

If only one flower is pollinated, you'll get funny-shaped fruit. You might not have enough bees, if that's a problem.

Haskap flowers can survive to negative 7 C

What pollinates Haskap?

Bumble bees, honey bees, mason bees, various wild bees and flies.

### **Soil**

Don't have to be too concerned about pH.

Prefer dry feet

### **Space Requirements**

1.5 m between plants.

3.5 to 5.5 m between rows, depending on equipment.

Leave space at end for turnaround.

You don't have to stake.

Not sure if plastic mulch is worth it.

Haskap can work well as a dye.

5% haskap juice is the colour of cranberry juice.

100% haskap is almost black.

Haskap added to dairy (like) products at 20%.

Curdles milk, but tastes delicious with soy milk or rice milk. Beautiful colour too.

### **Questions:**

What are seeds like?

The seeds are like a tiny tomato seed. People don't notice them.

What are pests?

Birds are number one problem for Haskaps. For four years they didn't notice them, then they started to gorge on them. Leave some bushes for the birds.

How about shade?

They don't do well under trees. The more sun, the more yield.