



Ontario Hazelnut Association R&D Activities

Earl Hughson- Committee Chair

OHA R&D Committee Focus

- Help Ontario hazelnut growers be successful!
- Collaborate with:
 - growers
 - researchers
 - industry partners
 - nurseries
- Collect and share data and information
- Identify challenges and communicate successes

Cultivar Evaluations

- ***What cultivars will work on my farm?***
- Many factors:
 - Climate zone
 - Soil
 - Diseases, blights, pests
 - Nut yield and nut characteristics
 - Pollen compatibility and flowering
- Diverse conditions
- No “one-size-fits-all” solution!

OHA Cultivar Trial Project

- Initiated in 2016 with six 10 acre member farms – Ferrero sponsor
- 25+ cultivars in trials
- Initially U of Guelph data collection
- Now summer student data collection
- 25 member farms surveyed in 2020
- Expanding each year to more member farms
- Real “on farm” results

New - U of Guelph Cultivar Trial

- 6 year detailed cultivar trial
- Dr. John Zandstra U of G, Ridgetown
- Locations: Blenheim, Simcoe, Exeter, Uxbridge, Kingston
- Cultivars from : Oregon, New Jersey, Ontario
- Plantings to begin this season



Recent Hazelnut Research Projects

- Irrigation
- Nitrogen fertility
- Heavy clay soils
- Cold hardiness

Hazelnut Irrigation

- 2015 Cedar Springs Research Station – Ferrero sponsor
- Gene, Yamhill, Carmela
- 100%, 75%, & 50% field capacity, and no irrigation
- To date: No *statistically* significant differences
- However, Yamhill and 50% and 75% irrigation trending higher



Nitrogen Fertility

- 2015 Cedar Springs Research Facility – Ferrero sponsor
- Alex, Theta, Yamhill
- Treatments: full Oregon rate, ½ Oregon Rate
- Spring and mid June applications
- Winter 2017/18 Theta and Yamhill dieback and subsequent removal
- To date: No differences in fertility rate and Alex yields are low

Hazelnuts in Heavy Clay Soil

- 2019 Huron Research Station
- Ground level and raised beds (6-8")
- Ground covers:
 - Wood chips
 - Degradable film
 - No ground cover
- Yamhill and Jefferson
- Too early to see any results



Cold Hardy Hazelnuts

- 2016 in North Bay area by Dr Adam Dale
- Winter lows below -28°C
- 758 Rutgers seedlings, 13 crosses of:
 - cold hardy northern European cultivars
 - blight resistant cultivars
- Plus Chelsea and Norfolk
- 2020 results:
 - 72% of Rutgers surviving (96% to 50%)
 - 28% of Chelsea and Norfolk surviving

Summary

- OHA R&D committee is:
 - Collaborating with partners in hazelnut research
 - Collecting data from Ontario hazelnut farms
 - Evaluating cultivar suitability for various Ontario regions
 - Sharing information with our members
- Let us know if you would like to join the R&D committee
- Please sign up to participate in our annual cultivar surveys

Join us to learn more at upcoming member events!