

# Novel Berry GREEN Grant

Northwest Michigan  
Orchard & Vineyard Show

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# GREEN Grants

- Project GREEN, Michigan's plant agriculture initiative housed at Michigan State University, is a cooperative effort by plant-based commodity groups and businesses in cooperation with Michigan State University AgBioResearch, Michigan State University Extension and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to advance Michigan's economy through plant-based agriculture.

# Novel Berry Grant Background

- **2014 discussions with SBIONA**
- **Duke Elsner approached Eric Hanson, Dept. of Horticulture, MSU**
  - **Eric took the lead in preparing grant proposal**
- **Additional investigators recruited**
  - **Ashley McFarland, Upper Peninsula Res. Station**
  - **Rufus Isaacs, Dept. of Entomology, MSU**
  - **Annemiek Schilder, Plant Pathologist, MSU**

# **Novel Berry Grant Background**

- **Submitted to Project GREEN in January 2015**
  - **Did not receive funding**
- **Adjusted and re-submitted January 2016**
  - **Funded at \$24,900 for the first year**
  - **Possible renewal for \$15,400 in 2017**

# Novel Berry Project Objectives

- **Identify superior genotypes of Saskatoon, haskap, goji and aronia for Michigan conditions**
- **Provide outreach resources to advise Michigan farmers on advantages and limitations of these berries**
- **Establish a NW Michigan saskatoon planting large enough for pesticide trials**

# Project Sites

- **Variety trials**
  - **Leelanau County commercial grower site**
  - **MSU campus Horticulture Farm, Ingham County**
  - **Upper Peninsula Research Center, Alger County**
  - **Bay Mills Waishkey Bay Tribal Education Farm, Chippewa County**
  
- **Saskatoon pesticide trials**
  - **Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center, Leelanau County**

# The “novel berries”

- **Saskatoons**
  - *Amelanchier alnifolia*
  - North central and northwest United States and central Canada
- **Haskaps**
  - A.k.a honeyberries
  - *Lonicera caerulea*
  - Native to northern Europe, Asia and North America
- **Goji berries**
  - *Lycium barbarum*
  - China
- **Aronia berries**
  - A.k.a. black chokeberry
  - *Aronia melanocarpa*
  - N. America and Europe and Russia

# Saskatoon variety trial

- **Smoky**
- **Martin**
- **Northline**
- **JB-30**
- **Thiessen**
- **Elizabeth**
  
- **Plants did not ship in 2016!**





# Saskatoon pesticide trial plot

- **280 plants in total**
  - **Martin – 140 plants**
  - **Northline – 140 plants**
- **Set up so we can do replicated trials of insecticides or fungicides**
- **To be planted in spring of 2017 at Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Center**

# Haskap Variety Trials

- Maxie
  - Solo
  - Indigo Gem
  - Indigo Treat
  - Tundra
  - Aurora
  - Honey Bee
  - Borealis
- 
- Planted 2016



# Gogi Berry Variety Trials

- **Big Lifeberry**
- **Sweet Lifeberry**
- **Crimson Star**
- **Phoenix Tears**
- **VT-TC04 (advanced selection from VA Polytechnic Inst.)**



# Aronia Berry Variety Trials

- **McKenzie**
- **Viking**
- **Planted 2016**





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