

# Grower Summary

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## SF 93

Evaluation of six black  
raspberry cultivars

Annual 2010

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<b>Project Number:</b>	SF 93
<b>Project Title:</b>	Evaluation of six black raspberry cultivars
<b>Project Leader:</b>	James Carew
<b>Contractor:</b>	Farm Advisory Services Team Ltd
<b>Industry Representative:</b>	Tim Place, Place UK Ltd
<b>Report:</b>	Annual 2010
<b>Publication Date:</b>	15 September 2011
<b>Previous report/(s):</b>	None
<b>Start Date:</b>	1st April 2008
<b>End Date:</b>	31 December 2011
<b>Project Cost:</b>	£ 8,673

## Headline

Four black raspberry cultivars are being grown in East Kent and their canes and fruit will be assessed in 2011.

### Background and expected deliverables

The black raspberry is a member of the *Rosaceae* family and belongs to the same subgenus (*Idaeobatus*) as the red raspberry (*Rubus idaeus* L.), with which it shares the trait of its fruit separating cleanly from the receptacle. Black raspberry (*R. occidentalis* L.) production has traditionally been concentrated almost completely in Oregon in the USA. 'Munger' and 'Jewel' are the leading varieties. Munger was bred in the 1890s and Jewel in 1957 (Graham and Jennings, 2009). However, since the early 1900s, black raspberry production in the United States has seen a marked decline that many attribute to disease and a lack of cultivars with sufficient disease resistance. At the same time, breeding progress has slowed dramatically due to an apparent lack of genetic variability in available elite germplasm. Interest in black raspberries has been growing in recent years in a number of countries from the USA to South Korea (Graham and Jennings, 2009) because of their high anthocyanin content and antioxidant capacity. New cultivars, which are adapted to the biotic and abiotic stresses of the Pacific Northwest, may help expand the market for black raspberry fruit and improve the financial return to the growers.

The aim of the work described here was to obtain cultivars of black raspberry for trialling in the UK to identify whether any of the tested cultivars showed promise for commercialisation. The four cultivars that were obtained are described below. These descriptions are based on experience of growing the varieties in the USA and data from UK based trials are needed.

### Summary of the project and main conclusions

The first stage of the project was to collect the cultivars and propagate them. Haut, Huron and Jewel were sourced from SCRI in January 2009. Mac Black was supplied by Edward Vinson Ltd., Faversham, Kent. The mother plants were potted up into 10L black pots using a coarse peat based potting compost (Sinclair SHL Potting growing medium) in April 2009. The canes were allowed to develop during the early part of 2009 until cane height reached 2m. At this point the layering process was initiated. Canes were laid onto 8cm x 2.5m trays containing sowing compost (Sinclair SHL Sowing compost). The canes were pinned in place and the compost maintained damp whilst the canes began to produce roots. The rooted canes were cut into 5cm sections and allowed to develop long canes during 2010. to be cropped in a commercial raspberry tunnel in 2011.

**Financial benefits**

- At this stage no financial benefits can be identified.

**Action points for growers**

- At this stage there are no action points for growers.