

# Mississippi *Vaccinium* Journal

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**Editor:**

Eric T. Stafne

**Contributors:**

- Eric T. Stafne

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## Reruns

I don't know about you but I get tired of reruns. The drought of 2023 and the rerun drought of 2024 was more than enough for me. While nowhere near as bad this year it still was a stressful time for plants (and humans). Speaking of reruns, I never understood what people found attractive about 'Friends'. It ran for something like 8 years and people fawned over it, defending it against superior shows. It had high ratings, but I never could understand it. The acting was bad, the writing was bad, the direction was bad, just bad all around. It just seemed so phony to me. Oh well, at least a television program from 30 years ago is a harmless diversion. Let's hope we don't have any more droughts in the near future, or any other disastrous reruns. Our upcoming educational events won't be disasters so hopefully you will be able to attend some or all of them.

## 2025 Annual Blueberry Education Workshops

The Mississippi State University Extension Service will be hosting 2 workshops for blueberry growers in 2025 — an in-person workshop in Hattiesburg and an online workshop . **The dates and times for the in-person workshop will be January 29, 2025 from 9-12pm. The Virtual workshop will be February 7 from 1-2pm.**

Right now things are in the planning stages with more information to follow.

If you have received this newsletter via email, you will get notification of the workshop details. The workshop will also be advertised via other outlets as well. Stay tuned for more information.

Look on Pages 2 and 4 for information on committed virtual workshop speakers and their topics.

## 2025 Virtual Blueberry Workshop Speakers

**Dr. Rebecca Melanson, Mississippi State University  
Associate Extension Professor & Plant Pathologist**

**Title:**

**IPM Resources for Commercial Blueberry Production**



**Dr. Elizabeth Canales, Mississippi State University  
Associate Professor & Extension Economist**

**Title:**

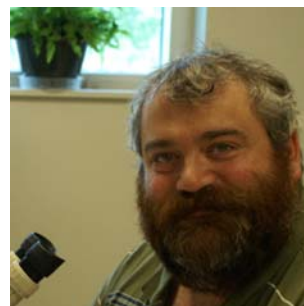
**Consumers preferences: sensory drivers and barriers  
to fresh blueberry consumption**



**Dr. Blair Sampson, USDA-ARS  
Research Entomologist**

**Title:**

**Bushes wearing denim: cotton-based nanofibers  
for protecting blueberries from freeze damage,  
crop pests, and disease**



Virtual Workshop will be on Friday, February 7, 2025 from 1-2pm. Registration will be needed to attend. The registration will be available after the first of the year. Stay tuned.

# 2024 Specialty Crops Conference



## Specialty Crops Conference

Lake Terrace Convention Center  
Hattiesburg, MS

### December 12th 10AM - 3PM\*

- Food as a Business Workshop Sessions
- Navigating Market Outlets Opportunities
- Food Regulations, Labeling, Food Safety
- Credit Readiness and USDA FSA Loan Programs
- Digital Marketing & Social Media
- State Agency Services/Programs
- H-2A Temporary Agricultural Workers Program



### December 13th 7:30AM - 4PM\*

- Breakfast
- Welcome & General Session
- Keynote: Dr. Christian Stephenson
- What is Organic Certification & Is It Right for My Farm?
- Technical Programs
- Fruit Crops, Vegetable Crops, Cut Flowers & Ornamental Horticulture
- Information Booths

\*Lunch and refreshments provided



**Registration Fee: FREE**  
**Pre-Registration Required**  
 Registration Deadline 12/2/24  
<https://tinyurl.com/SCropsC>

#### FOR MORE INFO:

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Funding: 2023-70027-40446

## 2025 Mississippi Blueberry Education Workshop

### Where?

MSU Forrest County Extension Office  
952 Sullivan Dr, Hattiesburg, MS 39401

### When?

Wednesday, January 29, 2025 from 9-12PM

### Who?

**Dr. Eric Stafne** — Mississippi State University

### Topic:

**Considerations for Sustainable Blueberry Production**

**Dr. Blair Sampson** — USDA-ARS Poplarville

### Topic:

**Bushes wearing denim: cotton-based nanofibers for protecting blueberries from freeze damage, crop pests, and disease**

**Dr. Christin Coker** — Mississippi State University

### Topic:

**(TBD) Organics and Sustainability**

**Dr. Elizabeth Canales** — Mississippi State University

### Topic:

**Consumers preferences: sensory drivers and barriers to fresh blueberry consumption**

### How much?

Free

### How to Register?

No prior registration necessary, just show up at the stated time and place.

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## Reminder to Check out IPM Resources Eric Stafne, MSU-ES

I try to make it as easy as possible to find the latest information we put together as part of the Southeast Region Small Fruits Consortium ([smallfruits.org](http://smallfruits.org)). However, I am often surprised at the number of questions I get that can be readily answered by reading the online guides. So here is the link again. It is updated at least annually and usually more often when new information is available:

<https://smallfruits.org/ipm-production-guides/>

