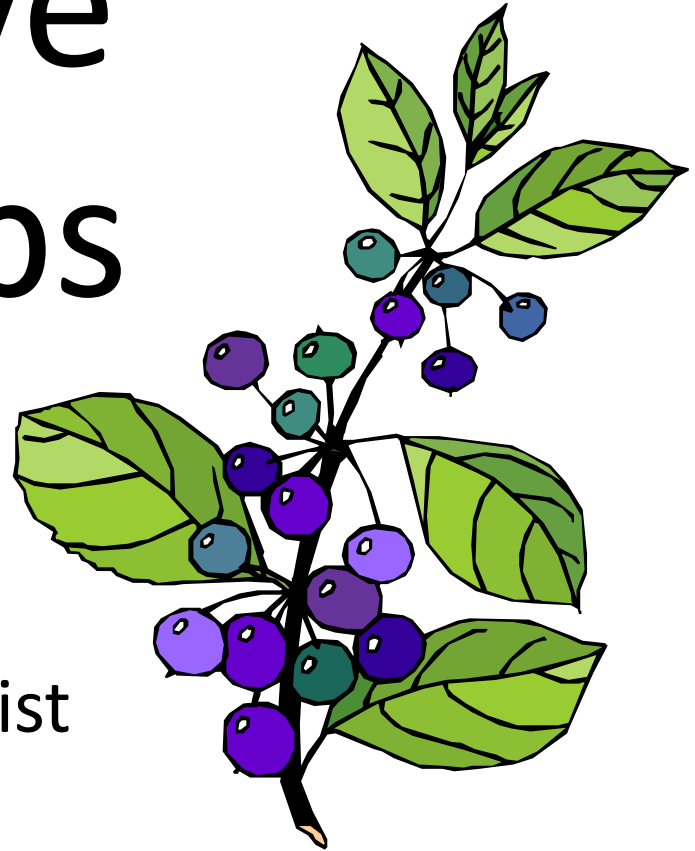


# Alternative berry crops

Dr Sally Francis  
Consultant Agronomist  
for InCrops

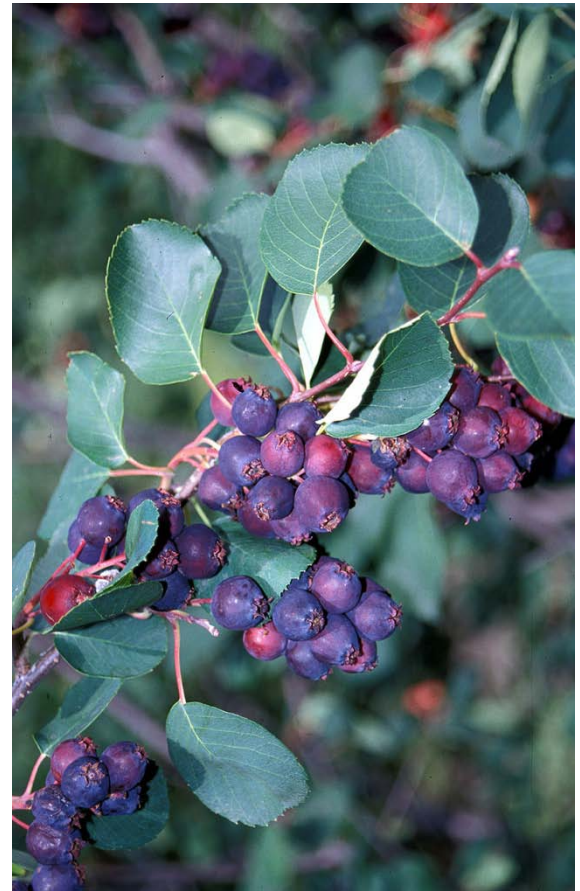


# Background

- I am researching alternative berry crops for InCrops.
- There are many interesting species that are not commercialised in the UK.
- Often have been grown as garden ornamentals for some time, but little/no recognition has been given in the UK to edibility or berry quality.

# Barriers to commercial uptake (in Eastern England)

- UK availability of named varieties with good fruit.
- Winter chill requirements impossible to meet?
- Correct pollinating insects are absent.
- Consumer education; plant names e.g. Chokeberries.



(c) Dr Richard St-Pierre

# Honeyberries and Haskaps



(c) Dr Bob Bors

- The plant is *Lonicera caerulea*.
- Native to Japan, Kuril Is., Russia, Canada.
- A 2m high deciduous shrub.

# Honeyberries and Haskaps

- Breeding formerly in Japan and Russia, ornamental selections in Canada.
- North America selecting for superior flavour – haskaps. Agronomy development.
- Haskap flavour cross between raspberries and blueberries (better than honeyberries).
- Expect to get UK selected haskap material in next few years.

# Haskap technical properties

- Edible cooked or raw.
- Highly stable pigments, high vit C content, more antioxidants than blueberries.
- Skin disintegrates on cooking and thawing.
- Natural affinity for dairy products.
- Japanese uses include jams, noodles, cereal bars and chewing gum!

# Hardy kiwi or kiwiberries



(c) KiwiBerry Organics

- The plant is *Actinidia arguta*.
- Native to Japan, Korea, N China, Siberia.
- Grows as a vigorous, woody vine.

# Kiwiberries

- Russians bred named varieties.
- Range of fruit colours from green to red.
- Train up permanent supports.
- Truly hardy, unlike kiwifruit (*A. deliciosa*).
- Research at EMR, Ghent, and in the Netherlands.
- Some named varieties available from specialist UK nurseries.

# Kiwiberry technical properties

- Skin is edible, unlike kiwifruit.
- ‘Tropical’ flavour.
- Fives times vitamin C level of oranges.
- Higher in potassium than bananas.
- Can be pureed, for use in ice creams, alcoholic beverages, sauces etc.
- ‘Pairs well with oranges, honey and chocolate.’

# Thanks to...

- Felicidad Fernández, EMR
- Dr Bob Bors, University of Saskatchewan.
- Holly Laubach, KiwiBerry Organics, USA  
[www.kiwiberry.com/index.html](http://www.kiwiberry.com/index.html)
- Dr Richard St-Pierre, Prairie Elements,  
Canada [www.prairie-  
elements.ca/nativeplants.html](http://www.prairie-elements.ca/nativeplants.html)

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