



Northern New York Agricultural Development Program
A farmer-driven research & technical assistance program for
New York's six northernmost counties, www.nnyagdev.org



New York's First Juneberry Research Nursery NNYADP Project Supports *Amelanchier* as "Super Fruit" Crop for NYS

Project Leaders:

- Michael B. Burgess, Department of Biological Sciences, SUNY Plattsburgh, Plattsburgh, NY; *Amelanchier* biologist; 518-564-5277
- Michael H. Davis, Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station Willsboro Research Farm, Willsboro, NY; 518-963-7492

Background:

Funding from the farmer-led Northern New York Agricultural Development Program has established one of the world's largest Juneberry research nurseries at the Cornell Willsboro Research Farm in Willsboro, NY.

Research leaders Burgess and Davis started with and are continuing to build a living collection of *Amelanchier* that includes all commercially available cultivars, wild-collected novel fruit cultivars, and North American diploid *Amelanchier* species.

Seeds from 8 *Amelanchier* species: *A. alnifolia*, *A. arborea*, *A. canadensis*, *A. gaspensis*, *A. humilis*, *A. laevis*, *A. sanguinea*, and *A. spicata*, collected from across the Northeast, the Gaspé Peninsula and southern Quebec, were cold stratified for 2-3 months and successfully germinated in the SUNY Plattsburgh greenhouse. Seedlings were transplanted to the Willsboro Research Farm nursery. The first substantive crop of fruit is expected in 2017.

The Goals:

- Cornell Willsboro Research Farm will have the most taxonomically diverse living collection of North American *Amelanchier* species and fruit cultivars in the world. Replicated trials will support development of a vibrant Juneberry fruit industry.
- To support grower entry into the Juneberry market, Cornell Willsboro Research Farm *Amelanchier* nursery will provide evidence-based resources and best management practices for Juneberry production, including:
 - *plant establishment techniques*
 - *fertility requirements*
 - *planting densities*
 - *organic production, and*
 - *weed, insect, and disease control strategies.*



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Establishing the Juneberry nursery at Willsboro Research Farm CUAES, Willsboro, NY. This first-of-its-kind nursery for Amelanchier in New York State was initiated with funding from the farmer-driven Northern New York Agricultural Development Program, nnyagdev.org. Photo: Michael Davis

Resources for Juneberry Growers:

- **NNYADP Juneberry Nursery Research Updates:** www.nnyagdev.org
- **Juneberry Production & Marketing Info:** www.juneberries.org
Northern New York Agricultural Development Program Juneberry project leaders Michael Burgess and Michael Davis have partnered with Jim Ochterski, a leading Juneberry proponent and educator in NY's Finger Lakes region. They offer resources and workshops for growers and those interested in producing and marketing juneberries. Ochterski developed www.juneberries.org as an online resource for growers, journalists, consumers and educators.

Media reporting on the NNYADP Juneberry nursery project since August 2013 has included the Associated Press, several national magazines in the U.S., public radio, CTV News in Canada, and Horti Daily International.

"Thanks to its powerful antioxidant properties and to the entrepreneurial efforts of a handful of commercial growers, this under-the-radar berry [Juneberry] has garnered a new wave of interest in parts of the U.S. Some think this delicious fruit – it tastes like a mixture of cherries, almonds and grapes – could be on its way to hit the super-fruit jackpot, a market whose juice segment alone will be worth \$10 billion by 2017, predicts research firm Euromonitor International."

— Time Magazine Aug 21, 2014

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