

# Blackberry Demonstration – Primocane and Traditional Blackberries (multiyear project)

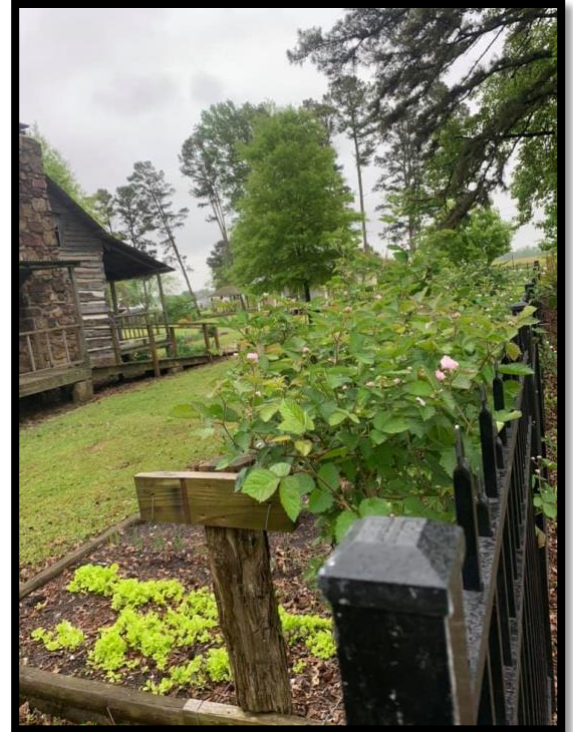
Cooperator: Pioneer Village – City of Searcy (Master Gardener project)

The University of Arkansas Fruit breeding program is



responsible for releasing blackberry varieties that are important to blackberry production across the United States and world.

The blackberries demonstrations were planted in 2017 with Osage, Ouachita and Prime-Ark® Traveler being the three main varieties used in our location. Tissue culture plug plants were used for the Osage, Ouachita and Prime-Ark® Traveler plantings. A standard fertility and pest management program was utilized and plants were allowed to establish over the 2018 season. During the 2019-2020



seasons the berries were harvested over several

weeks and recorded the average weight of individual berries and recorded their observations.

The varieties included in this study vary in their fruiting characteristics and in ripening time, which allows for the possible extension of the blackberry season, especially with the combination of floricanes (F) and primocanes (P) fruiting varieties.

The plants have been fertilized, monitored for diseases and insects, and pruned according to the U of A recommendations. This demo has been promoted on Facebook, Twitter and in horticulture and Master Gardener newsletters, reaching 10,000+ people not including the visitors to Pioneer Village each year. The White County Master Gardener volunteers have assisted with maintenance and harvest each year. All the varieties used in the demonstrations have previously been tested extensively at the University of Arkansas Fruit Research Station in Clarksville, AR. Most of the average berry weights for the varieties tested reached the estimated average for that variety. Prime-Ark® Traveler (floricanes) had the highest average berry weight followed by Ouachita and Osage.

Overall, Arkansas released varieties have shown to do very well in the state and to be adaptable to a wide range of areas. The importance of plant health for berry size and flavor were also observed. For more information on growing blackberries:



<https://www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/crops-commercial-horticulture/horticulture/commercial-fruit-production/blackberry-school.aspx>