Blackberry trials in Denmark
Preliminary report of frost tolerance, yield and fruiting season in 8 varieties

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1.5 m distance in row
6 main shoots/plant
Tied up to 2 m height
Side branches trimmed to app. 20 cm
Terminal shoots left over winter to avoid budbreak in late summer and ensure flower bud formation in the entire shoot length

Recording growth, frost damage, flowering time, yield, berry size, problems with insects/fungi etc.

8 varieties x 5 blocks x 3 plants/plot
Conventional and organic tunnel production
Plast cover from late April to late September
Winter 2011-2012 coldest for over 20 years (-24°C)
Loch Tay
Karaka Black
Navaho
Nachez
Loch Marie
Reuben – primocane type

Start flowering on new shoots midle July

2011 trial - Reuben, tunnel 19

Accumulated yield all plants, g

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>August</th>
<th>September</th>
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<td>Value</td>
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<td>500</td>
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Full crop in 2012 in 7 varieties, less in Loch Maree, planted late

Navaho
2012 Trial - conventional

Varieties:
- Loch Ness
- Loch Tay
- Karaka Black
- Navaho
- Nachez
- Chester
- Helen
- Loch Maree

Accumulated yield/plant, g:
Berry quality aspects

Loch Ness - Loch Tay – Karaka Black – Navaho – Nachez - Chester – Helen - Loch Maree

Sooty mold  Heat damage ?  Tip immaturity
Frost damage

2012 Trial - organic

Mean no of dead shoots out of 6/plant

Varieties

Loch Ness
Loch Tay
Karaka Black
Navaho
Nachez
Chester
Helen
Loch Maree
Preliminary conclusions

- Loch Tay gave the highest yields in organic cultivation followed by Loch Ness, Navaho, Nachez and Chester about giving the same yield.
- Nachez gave the largest berries followed by Karaka Black and Loch Ness.
- Helen were most susceptible to frost damage, followed by Loch Ness and Karaka black. Loch Maree are not evaluated finally yet due to late planting.
- Conventional cultivation gave serious frost damage, whereas organic cultivation seem to protect most cultivars in this trial.
- The harvest season covers from mid July to late september, with peak harvest in august. Loch Tay gives the earliest crop to harvest.
- Aphid attack was difficult to control efficiently and gave problems with sooty mold on berry surface mostly in Karaka Black but also in other cultivars.
- Yield between 5 and 10 kg pr plant/year can be expected in the best varieties.

2011 approx 60 samples sent to JHI for analysis
2012 Aprox 50-60 samples available