

## ALASKA PLANT MATERIALS CENTER'S PALMER FAIRGROUNDS DEMONSTRATION PLOT

The Alaska Plant Materials Center first planted a demonstration plot at the Alaska State Fair in 1987 at the request of Bud Longenecker, Grounds Manager. Small fruits, potatoes, grains and grasses have been grown in the demonstration plot for fair goers to observe. The potatoes are planted annually and the grasses were planted in 1987.

In 1988, the fair demonstration plot became one of 13 sites for a systematic evaluation of small fruit varieties in the railbelt area of Alaska. The small fruit evaluation project was funded by the Division of Agriculture through the Applied Agriculture Research Account (AARA) Grant program. The evaluation is a cooperative project between the University of Alaska Fairbanks Agriculture and Forestry Experiment Station and the Alaska Plant Materials Center.

Types of fruit planted in 1988 include three Saskatoon varieties, four black currant varieties, two red currant varieties, six raspberry varieties and three half-high blueberry varieties. In 1989, two Saskatoon varieties, one red currant and five raspberry varieties were added to the evaluation project.

Information about each variety's winter hardiness, yield, bloom and harvest dates is being compiled at each site. Six sites are located in interior Alaska and seven are located between Trapper Creek and Kenai. Sites were to be evaluated for five years. The final year of evaluation should be 1994, to include the 5th harvest year for those plants planted in 1989.

### Yields for the Palmer Fairgrounds AARA Small Fruit plot in grams per plant.

Fruit Variety	1990	1991	1992	Fruit Variety	1990	1991	1992
Honeywood Saskatoon*	87	2548	137	Blackhawk Raspberry**			
Northline Saskatoon**		6	44	Boyne Raspberry*	32	13	889
Pembina Saskatoon**		0	30	Festival Raspberry*	12	203	812
Smokey Saskatoon*		1240	489	Heritage Raspberry*			
Thiessen Saskatoon*	70	27	125	Jewel Raspberry*			
Boskoop Blk Currant*	1591			Kiska Raspberry*	45	310	488
Consort Blk Currant*	194			Red Wing Raspberry**			
Swedish Black Blk Currant*	316	1030		Reveille Raspberry*	6	2	517
Willoughby Blk Currant*	215			Royalty Raspberry**			215
Holland Long Bunch Red Currant*	8	5864	3234	Ruby Raspberry**			
Honeywood Red Currant*	24	4416	2451	Titan Raspberry**			
Viking Red Currant**		720		North Blue Half-High Blueberry*	1		
Anelma Raspberry*	9	1593	433	North Country Half-High Blueberry*	.8		
Autumn Bliss Raspberry*				North Sky Half-high Blueberry*	.8		

\* planted in 1988, \*\* planted in 1989