TIPS FOR ESTABLISHING YOUR BERRY ORCHARD

Patrick Mangan- MSU Ravalli County Extension Office
Topics we will touch on:
- Site selection
- Fencing
- Pre-planting vegetation management
- Row spacing thoughts
Site Selection for an orchard

- Aspect
- Sun exposure
- Prevailing winds
- Cold pockets and cold air drainage
Fencing choices to exclude deer and elk

- 8 feet tall recommended
- Variety of materials and designs
- Visual impact and welcoming features
- Cost considerations
Woven wire fence

- High initial cost: $4-6 per linear foot.
- $5,000. per acre
- Low maintenance requirements once installed
Electric fencing systems

- 8 feet tall
- $1.20- $2.20 per linear foot to install
- $1,700 per acre
- Multiple wires, 6-8 inch spacing
- High-tensile wire
- Requires constant maintenance to ensure the fence is not grounded out
- Anchoring corners very important
Hybrid style fences

- Combinations of multiple styles and appearances
- Costs variable
- Impact variable
- Visual impact?
Fencing - materials considerations?

- Organic farms limited for wood treatment options
- Recycled sucker rod
- Treated wood
Other designs that are less than optimal
Vegetation management

- Pre-plant herbicide burn down?
- Tillage
- Identification of species present in the berry orchard
- Tools to suit control of difficult vegetation pre-planting
- Mulching berry rows?
Row Spacing Considerations

- Mature size of plants
- Equipment size and access
- Size of your harvest equipment and plan (spacing between plants)
- Row orientation to optimize sunlight, or local breezes and topography?