



Meet the Grower

District 6 Farms Jasonville, IN

District 6 Farms is a Blackberry Farm owned by Austin & Kristen Witt and located on 5 acres in Jasonville, Indiana. They have 3,700 plants arranged in rows that run N-S. The plants are in raised beds with plastic mulch. They have 4 varieties - Natchez (12%), Ouchita (58%), Apache (18%), Chester (12%). Their Food Safety Certifications include: 2017 Season - Global GAP certified & 2018 Season - Harmonized GAP with GMPP adder. Through barcoding every case, fruit is traceable back to where and when it was harvested.

The Cycle - Winter

To protect the plants from harsh Midwest winters, the plants are covered with blankets every winter. The blankets are held down by over 4,000 sand bags. Throughout winter, depending on temperatures, sometimes the blankets must be removed and replaced to keep the plants in dormancy, until Spring arrives.

The Cycle - Spring

By mid-April, Primocane training begins. Every plant receives training & hand weeding every 2 weeks. When soil temps reach 45°F, the plants start sending new Primocanes out of the ground. Fertilization begins. Based on soil moisture, irrigation controller is programmed to deliver the exact amount of needed water every day. When needed, fertilizer is mixed into irrigation water and applied through the drip tape, precisely at each plant's root zone.

The Cycle - Harvest

Harvest lasts 8-10 weeks and typically begins late June. "Peak" Harvest lasts 2 weeks, where we will produce approx. 3,500 cases.

