HORTICULTURAL CROPS RESEARCH STATION (NCSU)

Location
City: Castle Hayne
County: New Hanover

Background:
- Main Station established in 1947; Ideal Tract acquired in 1985
- Strawberry fungicide trials have been conducted at Castle Hayne since the 1970’s, and serve as the basis for recommendations to growers statewide

Unique Characteristics:
- Warmer climate, low native soil pH, high water table, high organic matter content and long growing season to supports the largest public blueberry-breeding program in the world
- Climate provides an excellent environment for plant disease evaluations for small fruit varieties

Station Statistics
Staff: 7
Management Units: Horticultural Crops
Buildings: 13

Research Program
Project Leaders (#): 19
Ongoing Projects (#): 37
Focus: Blueberries (breeding, diseases, IR-4), Strawberries (breeding, diseases), Grapes (breeding, diseases), Cucumbers (breeding, diseases), Watermelon (breeding, diseases) Woody Ornamentals (herbicide efficacy), Woody Fruit Species, Sea Oats, Beachgrass

Acres:
Station Total 111 ac
Field Crops: 0.8
Soybean 0.8
Small Fruits 49.71
Vegetables 11.36
Fruit Trees 0.36
Ornamentals 4.9
Rotational 0.7
Woodland 7.67
Irrigation Ponds 3.0
Infrastructure 22.5

Station Improvements:
- State of the art chemical storage and mixing room
- Two equipment storage buildings
- Greenhouse renovations for expanded research

Station Events:
- Field Days – Muscadine Grape and Blueberry
- Workshops – Muscadine Grape and Blueberry
- Training – Soil & Water Conservation and Master Gardeners
- Meetings - Blueberry plant breeders and Turf grass group
- Tours - Southern Region Grape Researchers, Southeastern Nurserymen Association, Hoggard High School Horticulture class