

**Alaska Report**  
**W6: Western Regional Plant Introduction Station (WRPIS)**  
**June 17-18, 2025**

**Prepared by: Jakir Hasan, University of Alaska Fairbanks, W6 Alaska Representative**

**Summary**

- The Western Regional Plant Introduction Station (WRPIS) received three requests in 2024. The majority (67%) of the requests came from citizen scientists. These requestors intend to use the accessions for breeding and research.
- Alaskans received seeds/stocks for 12 accessions, which belonged to three crop types. Riverbank or frost grape was the most requested germplasm, followed by raspberry.

**Victor Johanson**

Location: Fairbanks, AK

Crop:

- Purple raspberry (*Rubus x neglectus*) cvs. Clyde and Columbian
- Black raspberry (*Rubus occidentalis*) cv. Lowden

Purpose of requesting accession: Compare various purple raspberry cultivars for compatibility with interior Alaska conditions.

Quality of the plant materials upon arrival: Excellent! Columbian and Lowden grew and wintered well, and therefore will be evaluated for fruits. On the other hand, Clyde failed to root.

Did any plant materials released to the public that were partially or fully derived from any NPGS germplasm you received in 2024 or earlier?

- No plant materials collected in 2024 have been made public yet, but Mr. Johanson plans to propagate and sell them if suitable.
- Mr. Johanson obtained ‘Wyoming’, another purple raspberry variety, from the repository many years ago. Wyoming has proven to be excellent in interior Alaska conditions, with very little winter damage over the years, high vigor and productivity, and most importantly, exceptional flavor. Mr. Johanson shared ‘Wyoming’ with Jim Walla from Northern Tree Specialties in North Dakota, who has distributed it to others for marketing purposes. Wyoming has been completely absent from the US trade and is scarcely available in Canada, so Mr. Johanson is pleased that its extinction is being averted.
- Mr. Johanson also obtained Amethyst, a purple raspberry, from Jim Walla, which appears to be suitable for interior Alaska conditions. Mr. Johanson intends to propagate any that are worthwhile and sell them locally, as well as make them available to other suppliers for commercial sale nationwide.

- Mr. Johanson also received Anelma, Heija, and Heisa, which are Finnish "nectar raspberries," featuring *Rubus arcticus* in their lineage. These varieties are also unavailable in the trade. Anelma and Heisa have proven to be the finest among any raspberry cultivars Mr. Johanson has sampled for eating fresh, and Heija will bear fruit this year. Mr. Johanson sold several Heisa canes at the Soil and Water Conservation District's tree sale.

**Aaron Stierle**

Location: Solitude Springs Farm & Vineyard, Fairbanks, AK

Crop:

- Riverbank or frost grape cvs. HP-1, RA-66-8, Siewiernyj, Beihung, 62-11-42, RA-66-7, L505 and USSR 1502

Purpose of requesting accession: Compare various purple raspberry cultivars for compatibility with interior Alaska conditions.

Currently, Mr. Stierle is testing each selection for viability in the Interior. It takes a few years to see if they will survive and thrive. He intends to use them in breeding work. He has identified a female *Vitis riparia* selection from a previous germplasm order that has potential, demonstrating early dormancy and good hardiness.

Quality of the plant materials upon arrival: Excellent quality.

Did any plant materials released to the public that were partially or fully derived from any NPGS germplasm you received in 2024 or earlier?

- No, Mr. Stierle has not released any material derived from the genebank germplasm to the public.

Has any article been published that includes NPGS germplasm from 2024 or earlier?

- Mr. Stierle has not published any articles that include NPGS germplasm.

Lastly, any recommendations for enhancing the NPGS system?

- Mr. Stierle does not have any recommendations.

**Christine Macknicki**

Location: Alaska Plant Materials Center

Crop:

- Potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) cv. SARPO MIRA

Status: No Response