

Natasha Exel

From: Frank Bio <biofarm0419@bigpond.com>
Sent: Thursday, 12 October 2017 8:45 PM
To: BRT
Subject: Legislative council blueberry rust

1 I am appalled at actions taken by Biosecurity Tasmania in relation to blueberry rust outbreaks in 2014 – 16, it appears that the bigger you are the more rules are bent for you, but not for the small individual growers. Is this corruption, government pressure or pure incompetence ?

3 I have faith in the future of the blueberry industry and plan to increase plantings. As I grow chemical free (not Organic) I don't believe the blueberry rust is a problem ,it all comes back to soil & plant health. If plants have a Brix Level (sugar level) higher than 12 your plants will be resistant insect & disease ,the higher brix level , more resistance. Mine have had readings between 25 -30 meaning they are bullet proof except for wind.

We have known for decades that minerals & trace elements are required in certain ratios for optimum plant health along with beneficial bacteria & fungi, but this information has been drowned out by propaganda from chemical and fertiliser company's.

4 I have no faith in the administration of Biosecurity Tasmania because of the following reason,I contacted Loyd Klumpp to discuss blueberry rust and was told everybody would have a hearing regardless of their qualifications eg with or without degrees.

I said I would follow up on information regarding plant & soil health, rang to pass on information & contact of a CEO who operates in 40 plus countries around the world advising farmers and governments on soil & plant health and was told he and staff were too busy to follow up

5 I am quite happy to answer questions if there is any interest.

Frank Giles
St Marys Seaview Farm
686 Germantown Rd
St Marys