



# Introducing our New Blueberry Breeder & Geneticist, Dr. Claire Luby

Dr. Claire Luby & Jayden Christman



Dr. Claire Luby, our new Blueberry Breeder & Geneticist!

I am thrilled to start working as the blueberry breeder and geneticist with the USDA-ARS Horticultural Crops Research Unit in Corvallis, OR. I received my PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in plant breeding and genetics studying genotypic and phenotypic diversity in commercially available carrot cultivars and developing breeding populations.



Since then, I have worked on a variety of interdisciplinary projects including: studying carrot domestication through genome wide association mapping; collaborating with Indigenous communities in the Great Lakes region on food and seed sovereignty projects; and developing a plant breeding program for American Hazelnut. In addition, I co-founded and serve on the boards of two non-profit organizations: The Open Source Seed Initiative and the Student Organic Seed Symposium.

In my new position, I look forward to building on the legacy of this program by developing and releasing new blueberry varieties well suited to the region. I hope to work with farmers and other stakeholders to identify challenges to the industry and to develop plant breeding strategies to address them. I also plan to collaborate with other scientists in the Pacific Northwest and around the country to answer questions related to berry breeding and production.

I look forward to meeting you!

You can contact Dr. Claire Luby via email at [Claire.Luby@usda.gov](mailto:Claire.Luby@usda.gov).

We look forward to the wonderful road ahead with you, Dr. Luby, and are excited you are joining our community!



Photo demonstrates the trajectory of carrot domestication, from wild carrot (left) to historical open pollinated populations (middle) to modern cultivars (right).

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