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By Carl Collen

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## ***New raspberries put on show***

GPG and James Hutton Ltd showcases new raspberry selections to international guests



Jamie Smith (left) and Jamie Petchell

**G**lobal Plant Genetics (GPG) and James Hutton Limited, the commercial subsidiary of The James Hutton Institute, recently welcomed a group of international soft fruit visitors to view a range of new raspberry selections due for imminent market launch.

The breeding program at James Hutton Limited began work on primocane raspberries in 2012, with two new primocane cultivars forming part of these new releases. Awaiting confirmed names, they are coded as P4 and P5.

"Underpinning the raspberry programme is a world-class level of science, ensuring that the development of improved varietal traits is taking place at an impressive, but targeted rate," the groups stated.

Guests on the day were not only able to view and taste the new berries, but also to witness a range of scientific papers presented by the team operating at the institute.

These looked at areas such as marker assisted breeding and genomic selection techniques, understanding raspberry viruses and detection, high-health plant production and maintenance facilities, as well as opportunities for the use of bespoke mycorrhizae fungi in benefiting raspberry cultivations.

"We are delighted to have struck a raspberry representation deal with the world-renowned James Hutton Limited programme," said Jamie Petchell of GPG. "Their raspberry varieties have been well-known globally for a long time now. Their recent developments present growers across the world with an opportunity to access material that will further boost their own production. The new varieties deliver on all levels required in today's competitive raspberry landscape. They are truly world-class."

The breeding programme continues to work on improved types of florican raspberry, GPG and James Hutton reported.

A new low-chill variety with early season fruiting characteristics will also soon be named also. It is currently known as F6 and has been selected for its all-round abilities, including a "wonderful flavour" and the significant presence of the James Hutton Limited Phytophthora resistance marker, giving robust resistance to Raspberry Root Rot.

"It is great to see these new raspberry genetics come to fruition with their imminent commercial release," said Jamie Smith of James Hutton Limited. "We are looking forward to working with Global Plant Genetics as they develop them across their network of raspberry specialists across the world."

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