

The

BLUEBERRY BULLETIN

A Weekly Update to Growers

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AT A GLANCE...

Problem - Solution

Weeds - Pre-Emergent Herbicides applied

Scale Insects & Phomopsis -
Lime Sulfur, 5 gal./A

Mummy Berry -
200 Lbs. of Urea 50%
Disk between rows

Dear Blueberry Grower:

As we begin the new season I hope you had a great winter. This first edition of *The Blueberry Bulletin* contains the Spray Schedule for 2004. Also, 'AT A GLANCE...' will continue, and is a summary of each week's information. I hope it is something you can and will use.

If you have a problem during the season, please call me.

Any comments, suggestions, constructive criticism about *The Blueberry Bulletin* newsletter would be greatly appreciated. Also if you have any specific problems which you feel should be addressed, please let me know.

Help me to serve you better.

Here's hoping for all a very successful 2005.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Gary C. Pavlis
County Agricultural Agent, RU
Editor - Blueberry Bulletin*

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Diseases:

By Peter V. Oudemans, Ph.D.

Associate Professor and Extension Specialist

Plant Pathology

THE MUMMY BERRY CHECK LIST

Question	Action
Has mummy berry been a problem in this field before?	Scout for mummies and cups.
Are there very wet sections in the field?	Focus scouting efforts in the wettest sections
Do you have fields planted with a susceptible cultivar?	Focus scouting efforts on fields with cultivars such as Bluetta, Blueray, Early Blue, Jersey, and Weymouth.
Do you have mummies with cups in your field?	Initiate a spray program for primary and possibly secondary infections.
Does your neighbor or nearby abandoned farm have mummy berry?	If there are no cups in your field inoculum may be coming from outside. This is typically secondary phase and sprays should target bloom.

For mummy berry control, two phases must be considered. The primary phase occurs when spores produced from the cups and are distributed in the air currents and infect the young developing shoots causing the shoot blight. Susceptible blueberry cultivars can be infected from bud break until the shoots are ON AVERAGE one inch in length.

Infections occur as much as two weeks before the blighting symptoms appear and these blighted shoots produce spores that are carried by bees to the unpollinated flowers.

Fungicides can be used to control both phases of the disease but the primary phase is the most vulnerable. For the most effective control the initial fungicide application should be timed to early bud break or the squirrel ear phase.

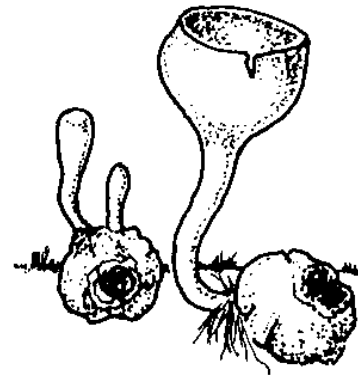
Cup development should be monitored in the field.

Spore production begins when stipes form a deep

indentation at the tip and the tip begins to expand to form

the cup. Since mummies survive best in wet sections of the field, cup development also tends to be localized to the wetter sections. For the most efficient scouting look in places where mummies are most likely to survive. Fungicide controls should target fields or the sections surrounding areas where the mummies are germinating. Some of the common and susceptible cultivars include Bluetta, Blueray, Early Blue, Jersey, and Weymouth.

Only a few cups have been observed to date and we should start seeing extensive bud break this week (April 4 – April 10). It is likely that primary infections will likely start late this week and continue for the next few weeks in both Atlantic and Burlington Counties as long as we have cool wet weather. These primary infections will lead to the blight stage of the disease, which will develop during the bloom period. Use of Indar, Pristine or Abound will help control new primary infections but will not kill the existing infections since they do not possess kickback activity. For the secondary or flower infecting phase of the mummy berry disease the objective will be to protect the unfertilized flowers from infection. Spores of the fungus are spread by



Mummy berry cup development. Look for developing stipes (left) and fully developed cups (right).

honey bees. Four compounds are currently labeled; Switch, Indar, Pristine and Abound. Applications of these fungicides should be made during early bloom and if heavy spore loads are suspected a second application can be made 10-14 days later. Discussions of the appropriate management strategy are encouraged with an agent, crop advisor, or specialist.

Insects

Dean Polk, IPM Agent

& Eugene Rizio, Program Associate

Cranberry Weevil (CBW): The first check for CBW was done on 3/22 at a hot spot where it was 60°F and sunny. The first catch was on 4/5 in the Hammonton area. Since 3/22, 67 weevil samples have been done using beating trays, and of these 48% have been positive. About 18% of samples have been over the treatment threshold of 5 weevils per bush. The maximum seen to date was 17 CBW/bush. Very little pinpoint bud injury has been seen so far. Since bud scales are starting to separate this gives the weevil a place to reside even under adverse conditions. We have found weevils tucked into bud scales even when temps were in the 40s. However, when temperatures are less than 60-63°, they are mostly inactive and should not injure buds under those cool conditions. On farms where CBW levels are clearly over threshold, treatment is still suggested even during cooler temperatures. If temperatures do rise, then those weevils will become active, creating a very small window for treatments, especially if those warm temperatures fall close to bloom and bee activity. If the bloom stage is drawn out, weevils may attack the relatively closed buds while bees are busy with the open flowers. We have also seen that where lime sulfur was used, weevils have usually been absent, even if at former hot spots.

Cutworm/Spanworm injury: There are a variety of larvae that chew and tunnel into tight buds that are difficult to see, since their activity is nocturnal. However we are scouting 500 buds in each sample to check on injury. So far, 20% of our samples have been positive at low levels, with a maximum injury level of 0.5%. Most injury was in the 0.2% range of clusters injured.

Redbanded Leafroller (RBLR): Traps went up on April 4. Three moths were caught over all traps on April 5.

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