

# RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural  
Experiment Station

## *The BLUEBERRY BULLETIN*

*A Weekly Update to Growers*

*Dr. Gary C. Pavlis, County Agricultural Agent*

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**May 18, 2009**

**Vol. XXV, No. 8**

*At a glance. Insect and disease problems that should be considered this week.*

PEST/DISEASE	WEEK OF MAY 18– If Bees Are Removed	WEEK OF MAY 25
<b>Anthracnose</b> Abound or Ziram	Continue anthracnose schedule on susceptible cultivars. Increase interval to 14-days	Continue anthracnose schedule on susceptible cultivars. Increase interval to 14-days
<b>Cranberry Fruitworm</b> Confirm, Intrepid, or Esteem	Monitor with pheromone traps	Treat if close to a peak flight at a high population.
<b>Plum Curculio</b> Guthion, Imidan, Diazinon, or high rates of Danitol	Continue scouting to identify hot spots. Treat if bees are removed	Scout and treat hot spots if needed.
<b>Gypsy moth (GM)</b> Leafrollers, spanworms B.t., Intrepid; If bees are removed and GM larvae >5/8" long, then Guthion, Lannate, Imidan, or Danitol	Scout for larvae. Treat if GM larvae are easily seen. Use threshold of 1 larva/100 clusters for leafrollers.	Continue scouting for larvae. Use same thresholds.
<b>Aphids</b> Lannate (low populations), Imidacloprid (e.g. Provado), Actara, or Assail	Scout and treat only if bees are removed and populations increase	Treat if needed. Lannate if used for CBFW will knock down aphid populations.

\*\*\*\*\***BLUEBERRY TWILIGHT**\*\*\*\*\*

**Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 pm**  
**Atlantic Blueberry Company**  
**7201 Weymouth Rd.**  
**Hammonton, NJ 08037**  
**For directions call 609/561-8600**



### **Culture:**

*Dr. Gary C. Pavlis*  
*County Agricultural Agent*

In fields where poor pollination is feared, because of poor bee activity, visual symptoms should be checked before investing in gibberellin sprays to promote set of berries. If a large percentage of flowers are turning purple instead of dropping, while still white, this is a sign of poor pollination. Lack of rapid growth of the ovaries and their discoloration also are indicative of pollination failure. "Red caps" is a designation given to unpollinated berries which turn reddish and/or

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yellowish and then drop. A small amount of drop is expected and occurs even with good crops. If your estimate of the number unpollinated flowers (purple flowers plus red cap) is less than 20 percent it may not be profitable to spray with gibberellin. It is almost always profitable to use this spray on varieties which are not attractive to honey bees: Earliblue, Coville, Berkeley, Stanley, 1316-A and Concords. The best timing is when two thirds of the blossoms have dropped. This spray (Pro Gibb-80 oz. per acre with sticker, or Gibrel) is absorbed through the skin of the ovary making it unnecessary for the flower and pistil to be attached.

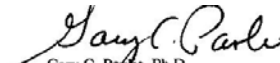
The following guidelines may be helpful in determining whether Gibberellin is needed:

1. Bee activity has been consistently poor. Unless at least an average of 20 bees can be seen actually entering flowers in a 10 minute period, pollination will be below normal.

2. Flowers are hanging for long periods and turning purplish (wine color) before dropping. When pollination is progressing well blossoms drop while still bright white in color. A vigorous shaking of canes should cause a shower of white corollas dropping to the ground.

3. Ovaries are rapidly swelling soon after flowers drop and are staying green – not turning yellowish or reddish in color.

Sincerely,



Gary C. Potts, Ph.D.  
Atlantic County Agricultural Agent

*Editor – Blueberry Bulletin*  
*Blueberry Bulletin – Editor*  
*GP/sp*

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### INSECTS

*Dr. Cesar Rodriguez-Saona,*  
*Extension Specialist in Blueberry Entomology, Rutgers University*  
*Mr. Dean Polk, IPM Agent – Fruit*

### INSECTS:

**The insects discussed below are in rough order of importance as we see them at present:**

**Plum Curculio (PC):** Frequency and levels are somewhat higher this week compared last week, with 13% of samples positive and overall catch at 0.18 PC/sample. Fresh egg scars have been seen in some fields already. Growers that have current activity and/or history of problems would benefit from pulling bees out as soon as possible so that an insecticide can be applied. We expect this pest to be active for the next 2-3 weeks.

**Gypsy Moth:** The frequency and the levels found are lower this week, with 57% of

samples positive and only 3% over the level of 1/100 clusters. Good results have been seen after treatment with Confirm or Intrepid. Growers are reminded to check new or small plants often since this pest will disperse easily from surrounding woodland.

**Cranberry Fruitworm (CBFW):** Adults continue to emerge at low levels. While CBFW will continue to emerge over the next several weeks, it should peak close to the last of the month. Growers, who have had historical high populations or problems with infested fruit, should plan on two insecticide applications. If using 2 sprays, then the first early insecticide should be an IGR such as Intrepid, Confirm, or Esteem,

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applied just prior to the flight peak. If using a single spray of a standard material, then the application can go on a few days later.

**Aphids:** Aphids are starting to show up in low numbers. About 30% of samples have been positive for aphid presence, and only 0.5% have been over the level of 10% of shoots infested. All samples are presently being done on young shoots at the crown level. Predators are common.

**Leafrollers and Other Leps:** Beating tray samples have been positive in 8% of

samples. This is similar to the previous week, in that levels remain very low. No samples have reached even 50% of a treatment level of 1 larva/100 clusters.

**Thrips:** Thrips are being seen often but not in numbers that appear significant. Most of our samples have been less than 10/100 fruit clusters.

**Disease Scouting:** Phomopsis and stem blight are present, but no mummy berry or Botrytis has been seen in commercial fields.

**Blueberry Trap Counts – Atlantic County**

Week Ending	CBFW	RBLR	OBLR	SNLH	Or. Beetle	BBM
4/5		19.9				
4/12		55.1				
4/19		72.0				
4/25		69.4				
5/2		71.6				
5/9	.009	43.6				
5/16	0.07	7.86	0.00			

**Blueberry Trap Counts – Burlington County**

Week Ending	CBFW	RBLR	OBLR	SNLH	Or. Beetle	BBM
4/5		9.3				
4/12		22.6				
4/19		19.2				
4/25		25.1				
5/2		38.0				
5/9	.09	16.2				
5/16	0.1	3.4	0.0			

**Diseases**

By Peter V. Oudemans, Ph.D.  
Extension Specialist

Blueberry pollination is completed (mostly) and the weather is starting to cooperate. Weather forecasts suggest a continuing warm (not hot) spell with lower rainfall predicted and that means great growing conditions will start. This week Duke and Weymouth will not require additional fungicide sprays for anthracnose as long as the in-bloom program was followed. Susceptible cultivars such as Bluecrop will benefit from continued fungicide applications although the interval can be increased to 10-14 days. Remember do not use Cabrio, Abound or Pristine more than twice in

a single sequence. These fungicides are all very similar and the anthracnose fungus will develop resistance to them if they are over-used. Use broad spectrum fungicides such as Ziram or Captan for resistance management. **Blueberry scorch** symptoms have observed in several fields this week. Symptoms may be confused with Phomopsis. The major difference between the two is that for scorch the majority of the bush is impacted whereas with Phomopsis the only a few branches are affected per bush.

