



The BLUEBERRY BULLETIN

A Weekly Update to Growers

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

PEST/DISEASE	WEEK OF JULY 6	WEEK OF JULY 13
Anthracnose Abound, Cabrio, or Captan	Continue anthracnose schedule on susceptible cultivars.	Continue anthracnose schedule on susceptible cultivars.
Aphids Imidacloprid (Provado etc.), Assail, Actara, or Lannate for suppression of low populations	Monitor and treat if over 10% of terminals infested.	Monitor and treat if needed.
Blueberry Maggot See list from previous newsletter	Monitor traps 2X/week Treat every 7-10 days if on a calendar schedule. Don't spray if monitoring and nothing is found.	Monitor traps 2X/week. Treat if needed.
Oriental Beetle Imidacloprid (AdmirePro and generics)	Monitor fields with Japanese beetle can traps baited with OB pheromone. Treat if needed.	Continue monitoring, and treat if needed.
Putnam Scale Esteem or Diazinon Record Locations of any infested fruit.	If scale is present on fruit, then identify the field from where the fruit was harvested, and plan on a scale treatment in August.	Same as previous week.

Federal Minimum Wage Increase

Beginning on July 24, 2009, the federal minimum wage will be \$7.25 per hour.

Every employer of employees subject to the Fair Labor Standards Act's minimum wage provisions must post and keep posted, a notice explaining the Act in a conspicuous place in all of their establishments so as to permit employees

to readily read it. The content of the notice is prescribed by the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor. An approved copy of the minimum wage poster is made available for informational purposes or for employers to use as posters.

For addition information on Federal Wages call 1-866-487-9243 or visit www.wagehour.dol.gov

Culture:

Dr. Gary C. Pavlis

County Agricultural Agent

Harvest is progressing well with final pickings of 'Duke' and the second round of 'Bluecrop'. Growers reported very little in the way of problems this week and fruit quality is quite good.

One problem I did encounter reinforced to me how important a leaf analysis is to the health of a growers blueberry plants. I was called out to a farm and brought to a 'Bluecrop' block. 100% of the ripe fruit was not marketable because of chocolate-like blotchy spots on the fruit. When this fruit was cut open, there was a browning of

the interior under the blotchy sections. The fruit was a total loss. In addition, the growing point on every cane was black. This is a very good indication that there is a Boron deficiency. Growers who have attended the Blueberry Open House have seen me show slides of this deficiency symptom. To confirm my diagnosis I collected leaves and sent them to Penn State for analysis. The analysis came back with very low Boron levels, far the below optimum range. In addition, Iron, Copper, Magnesium and Nitrogen levels were also low, though not to the extent of the Boron. FYI, Boron deficiency can be alleviated very easily with a foliar application of Boron. This application is also quite inexpensive.

Growers that are in the Rutgers IPM program know that soil and leaf analysis are monitored every year. As a result, a disaster in which an entire crop is lost due to a nutrient deficiency is much less likely to occur. Growers

INSECTS

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

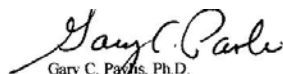
Aphids: About 86% of samples have been positive for aphids, with 55% over the 10% infestation level. This is slightly lower than last week, but still indicates that aphids remain the principal pest target at this time.

Blueberry Maggot (BBM): While this remains the other principal insect pest to watch out for, BBM is scattered and not present on every farm. On farms where it is being found, it may only be present in one or two fields. At the present time BBM is present on 62% of farms being monitored.

Oriental Beetle (OB): OB adult populations are close to peak captures in pheromone traps.

who are not in the program should realize that in extreme cases, nutrient deficiencies can be devastating. Most growers are probably not aware of the impact that a nutrient deficiency can have. It is understood the diseases and insects can be devastating but nutrition should be added to that list and realize that it is probably the easiest to prevent with an annual leaf analysis. Watch this newsletter for timing of the leaf analysis, how it is done and where to send your samples. This is a very cost effective method to prevent major problems.

Sincerely,

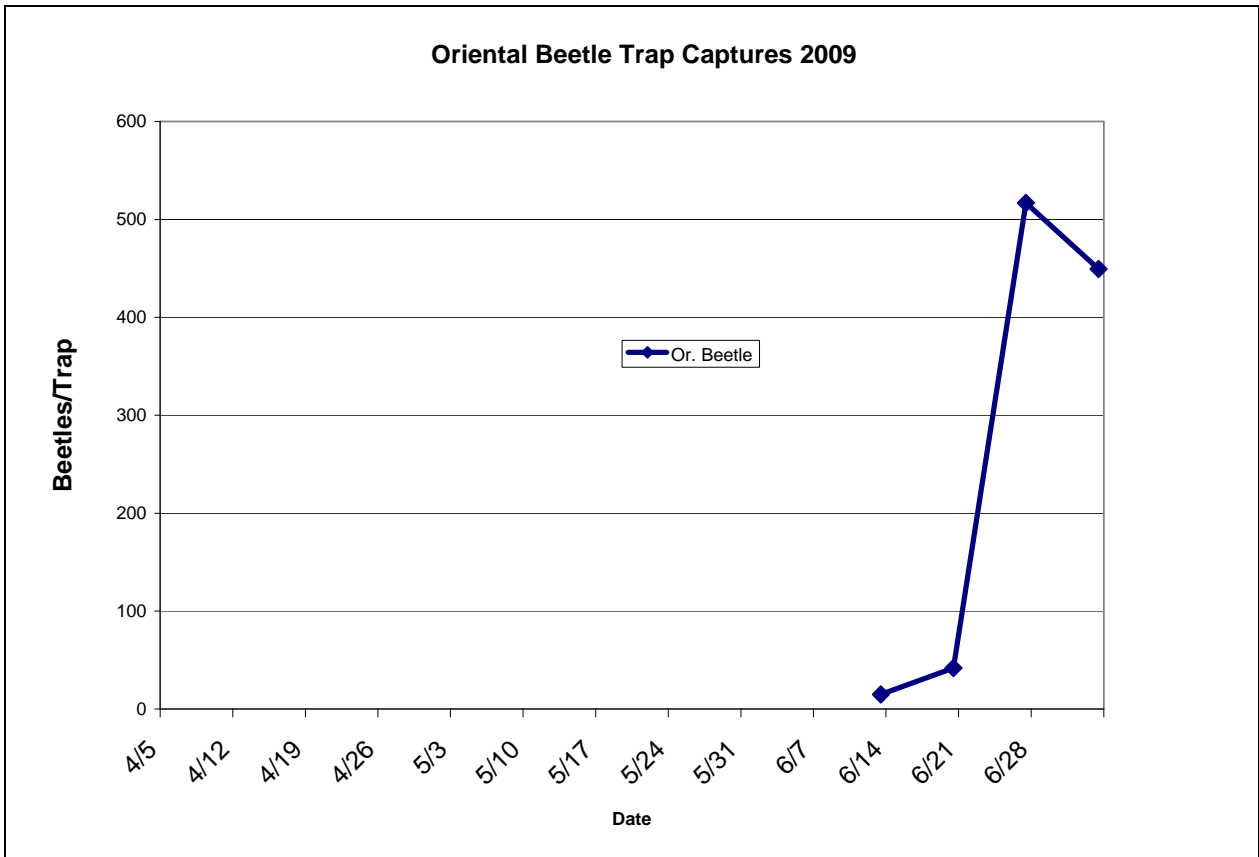

Gary C. Poole, Ph.D.
Atlantic County Agricultural Agent

*Editor – Blueberry Bulletin
GP/sp*

While trap averages are running between 400-500 beetles per trap, some farms have captures of over 2,000 adults per trap. Past experience has shown that when trap captures are this high, significant root damage can be expected if the populations are left untreated.

(See OB Trap Captures on next page)





Putnam Scale: About 16% of fruit samples have been positive for injury. Please see last newsletter for notes on scale biology and management.

Plum Curculio (PC): We still have some later PC adult activity as of last week. About 7% of beating tray samples were positive for PC. With respect to fruit injury, 23% of fruit samples have been positive, and all levels seen have been under 1%. Fresh injury was seen in only 1 location.

Cranberry Fruitworm (CBFW): About 6% of samples have some level of damage. Only 2% of samples exceed the 1% injury level. If injury is present it is usually concentrated at wooded edges.

Anthracnose: About 14% of samples have been positive for infection. The highest level seen was 2.5% in Bluetta. The highest level seen in Bluecrop was 0.8% in a no fungicide field.

INSECT TRAP COUNTS

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	7.9	0.00			

5/23	0.2	1.6	0.02			
5/30	0.1	0.3	9.6			
6/6	0.2	5.8	19.5	0.4		
6/13	0.03	39.4	18.8	0.4		0.00
6/20	0.1	48.2	12.8	0.3	47.0	0.03
6/27	0.5	56.3	6.4	0.3	253.0	0.16
7/4	0.1	46.0	5.3	0.4	565.3	0.42

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	.1	16.2				
5/16	0.1	3.4	0.0			
5/23	0.2	0.4	1.3			
5/30	0.7	0.0	6.5			
6/6	1.9	0.5	20.4	2.7		
6/13	0.3	16.4	20.1	4.5	15.0	0.07
6/20	1.1	33.5	15.2	2.6	42.0	0.41
6/27	1.0	45.5	10.4	2.3	516.9	0.94
7/4	0.1	33.0	8.4	0.9	449.3	1.67

Native Bee Benefits for NJ and PA Growers Factsheet Available

Insect pollination services are a highly important agricultural input. Two-thirds of crop varieties require animal pollination for production and many crops have higher quality after insect pollination. Bees are the most important pollinators in most ecosystems. They facilitate reproduction and improve seed set for half of Pennsylvania’s and New Jersey’s top fruit and vegetable commodities. Estimated value of their pollination services range from \$6 - 263 million each year. Honeybee numbers in Pennsylvania and New Jersey have been declining over the past several years. Beekeepers recorded overwinter losses of 26- 48% and 17-40% respectively in PA and NJ between 2006 and 2009. These losses are much higher than the typical 15% losses seen in previous years. Although many farmers rent managed honeybees to increase crop yield and quality, surveys of small to medium size PA and NJ farms have shown that native bees provide a substantial portion of pollination services. By increasing the number

and diversity of native bees, PA and NJ farmers may be able to counter rising costs of rented bee colonies while supporting sustainable native plant and pollinator communities. Now available from County Extension offices or from the web is a factsheet informing farmers how to increase native bee pollination on farms in several simple steps. The factsheet covers:

- The most effective native bees in PA and NJ and how to identify them
- Their habitat and foraging needs
- Strategies for encouraging their presence on your farm
- Sources of funding

To access the factsheet from the web, go to the Native Pollinator page of the Sustaining Farming on the Urban Fringe website at: <http://njsustainingfarms.rutgers.edu/html/1.ssf-pollinators.html>

Note: Sustaining Farming on the Urban Fringe website (coming soon!) is under construction and access is currently confined to the Native Pollinator page.

The State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish & Wildlife, will be conducting three regional auctions, for Farm Lease and Service Agreements on properties within State-owned wildlife management areas. The auctions are open to all interested farmers. The dates and locations for the auctions are as follows:

- Northern Region: Tuesday, July 21, 2009 at 1:00 pm at the Pequest Trout Hatchery, 605 Pequest Rd. Oxford, NJ
- Central Region: Wednesday, July 22, 2009 at 1:00 pm at the Assumpink Wildlife Management Area, One Eldridge Rd. Robbinsville, NJ 08691
- Southern Region: Thursday, July 23, 2009 at 1:00 pm at the Salem County Extension Office, 51 Cheney Rd. Woodstown, NJ

To obtain bid packages, or for additional information, please visit <http://www.njfishandwildlife.com/wmaleases.htm> or call (609) 633-7575.

