No leaves: Growers visits have revealed fields with plants that have canes with fruit but no leaves. This is not Scorch. The lack of leaves usually points to a root problem. It could be grubs, it could be root rot. In non-irrigated fields, the lack of leaves is due to root damage due to lack of water during the drought last summer. This fruit probably will not ripen and the plant may not survive. Late summer/fall water applications are critical. In irrigated fields, I have seen many plants damaged by grubs. Admire is the control of choice in this case. Plants that have been damaged by grubs will pull out of the ground readily. Lastly, toxic levels of Boron can also result in no leaves. Do not apply Boron unless leaf analysis indicates a deficiency.

INSECTS
Dr. Cesar Rodriguez-Saona, Extension Specialist in Blueberry Entomology, Rutgers University; Dean Polk, IPM Agent, Rutgers Cooperative Extension; Amy Raudenbush, Fruit IPM Program Associate, Rutgers Cooperative Extension

Cranberry Weevil (CBW) – We are finding the occasional CBW adult while scouting, however all locations sampled over the past week were under threshold. The maximum CBW per site was 1.3 adults per bush.

Plum Curculio (PC) – We continue to find PC adults over the past week in both Burlington and Atlantic counties. The maximum count per site was 0.4 PC adults per bush. There are no recommended treatment options for PC during bloom.

Leps. and other larvae- We are starting to see leaf roller larvae and other leps while sampling the fields. The maximum leaf roller larvae per field was 2 per 100 blossom clusters. In addition, in two fields in Atlantic county we found eastern tent caterpillars while sampling in the blueberry plants (Figure on next page). These caterpillars have made their way into the blueberry fields from surrounding infested trees. Because these larvae are large and there are bees present, there is nothing you can do with them at this time.
Thrips- We began finding thrips in the field in Atlantic and Burlington counties on May 6th. Most farms do not have thrips activity. The maximum number of thrips was 55 thrips per 100 blossom clusters. Since our sampling consists of 100 blossom clusters, the highest count of 55 thrips equals about .55 thrips per cluster. The treatment threshold is 1 thrips per flower cluster, so even this highest count is only 50% of a treatment level.

Based on our “Thrips Activity Predictions” (http://benedick.rutgers.edu/Blueberryweather/ddcalc2.php), so far thrips have accumulated a total of 390.04 degree-days (see below). Based on our multi-year experiments, thrips require approx. 690 degree-days to reach 10% activity. At this point, the model indicates low thrips activity, which coincides with field observations, as indicated above.

Aphids- The first aphids were observed in the field on May 6th in Atlantic county at two sites. At each site a single aphid was found.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Insect counts May 2, to May 8 2015</th>
<th>CBW</th>
<th>PC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Max average per bush 1.3</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Min average per bush 0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% positive sites 48.5</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of sites above threshold (5 CBW/bush) 0</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BLUEBERRY BULLETIN

May 11, 2015

If you have any comments about this newsletter, please make them in the space below and mail to:
Dr. Gary C. Pavlis, County Agricultural Agent
Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Atlantic County
6260 Old Harding Highway, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

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Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Atlantic County
6260 Old Harding Highway, Mays Landing, NJ 08330
Phone: 609/625-0056, Fax: 609/625-3646
E-mail: pavlis@njaes.rutgers.edu
http://www.njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/blueberrybulletin
Dr. Gary C. Pavlis, County Agricultural Agent
Editor - The Blueberry Bulletin
Sharon Ponzetti, Secretary
E-mail: ponzetti@njaes.rutgers.edu