

RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station

The BLUEBERRY BULLETIN

A Weekly Update to Growers

Dr. Gary C. Pavlis, County Agricultural Agent

6260 Old Harding Highway, NJ 08330

Phone: 609/625-0056 Fax: 609/625-3646 Email: pavlis@njaes.rutgers.edu

May 5, 2014

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AT A GLANCE...

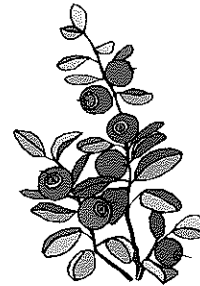
BLUEBERRY GROWER TWILIGHT MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2014 @ 5:30PM

ATLANTIC BLUEBERRY CO

7201 WEYMOUTH RD., HAMMONTON, NJ

FOR DIRECTIONS, CALL 609-561-8600



Culture

Dr. Gary C. Pavlis, Ph.D.

Atlantic County Agricultural Agent

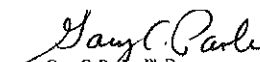
Fertilizing Newly Planted Fields: Growers putting in a new field have requested information on fertilization. First, no fertilizer should be placed in the planting hole. When the plants are set out in the fields, usually in April or early May, the fruit buds should be rubbed or pruned off. With no crop present and only a small area of soil requiring fertilizer, about 125 lbs/A of 10-10-10 is sufficient (1 1/2 oz./bush). Sidedressing with a fertilizing spreader will require higher rates to compensate for open areas between plants. Special caution should be observed as to the time of fertilizing after planting.

Fertilizer should not be applied until a second growth starts. For example, if plants are set out while dormant, do not

fertilize while the first crop of leaves is unfolding and changing from light green to dark green, wait for new growth. Making the first field application too soon has frequently caused reddened foliage and a delay of several weeks in the starting of new growth. Keep the fertilizer at least 2 inches away from the crowns of the young plants. In late-June, the application of fertilizer is usually made.

Note: Never put leaves, chips, sawdust and etc. in the planting hole unless it has been composted for at least 2 years. Fresh organic matter ties up all nutrients and starves the blueberry plants.

Sincerely,


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

Editor, Blueberry Bulletin

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY
RUTGERS

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Insects

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

Cranberry Weevil: Only a few cranberry weevil adults were seen late last week in about 20% of our samples. Since blueberries are in bloom, and the numbers were low, no treatments are needed (or permitted).

Leps., Other Leafrollers and Spanworms:
Scouting done late last week showed no

activity in the blossoms, and therefore no insecticides are justified.

Plum Curculio (PC): No PC activity was seen at the commercial sites that were scouted, although PC is active in some localized areas near wooded areas.

NJ DEP On-line Reports

To obtain information pertaining to your pesticide license follow the steps below:

1. Go to www.state.nj.us/dep/
2. On the left column there is a list of links, click on the light blue 'pesticides' link.
3. Go midway down the page and click on 'Online reports'. You will be directed to a page titled 'dep Data Miner'.
4. There will be a list of report links. If you have a commercial license, click on 'Commercial Certified Pesticide Applicators-Specific Information' link and for a private license, click on "Private Certified Pesticide Applicators – Specific Information' link.
5. The next screen you will need to enter personal information such as your license number, birthdate and last four digits of your social security number. After entering the above information, click 'ok' and you should be directed to information pertaining to your license. This report will tell you how many credits you have earned and when your license expires.

12th North American Blueberry Research and Extension Workers (NABREW) Conference

Atlantic City, New Jersey

June 23 - 26, 2014

Pre meeting Winery tour: June 23rd

Abstract submission is open: Submission closes May 16th

Meeting registration is open: Rates increase after May 16th

Hotel registration is open: Special conference rate expires May 23rd

Please see our website for additional details:

Website: <http://group-res.com/NABREW/default.aspx>

Conveners

Dr. James Polashock

USDA-ARS

(609) 726-1590 ext. 4423

james.polashock@ars.usda.gov

Dr. Gary Pavlis

Cooperative Extension of Atlantic County

(609) 625-0056

pavlis@aesop.rutgers.edu

Blueberry Colleagues,

Please plan to join us for the 12th NABREW conference to be held in Atlantic City New Jersey. The venue is near all the great things Atlantic City has to offer, and is within easy driving distance of both of the area airports (Philadelphia International Airport - PHL and Atlantic City International Airport – ACY). The late June time-frame coincides with our blueberry season. The organizing committee is working toward arranging an exciting scientific program and an informative field trip. The preliminary schedule is posted on our website. Details and additional information will be posted as it becomes available. Please check back often. We look forward to being your hosts in 2014 and hope you plan on joining us!

Our special guest keynote speaker will be Mr. Joseph Darlington, the grand-nephew of Elizabeth C. White, and a major New Jersey cranberry grower. He will be present: 'The History of the Commercial Blueberry Industry in New Jersey'.

The NABREW 2014 Organizing Committee

Please forward this announcement to interested colleagues.

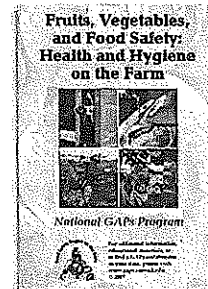
Farm Food Safety: Think About Worker Training Now

Meredith Melendez, RCE Mercer County

Worker health and hygiene training for farm workers, including family members, is an important step in reducing the risk for human pathogen spread on farms. Training of workers does not need to be complicated, but does need to be specific to your operation and your farm food safety plan (everyone should have one).

Worker health and hygiene training is required for passing a third party audit. Documentation must be kept regarding what workers were trained, when they were trained and what materials were used for the training.

A 15 minute training DVD in English and Spanish produced by Cornell is available for \$20 at both the Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Cumberland County office and the Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Mercer County office. This DVD is an excellent starting point for the training of farm workers on proper health and hygiene practices.



Toilet Facilities and Wash Stations

Wesley Kline

This is the time of year service contacts are being written for portable toilet facilities. Growers should make sure sufficient numbers are available for their workers. The facilities need to be located so they can be serviced and maintained so not to pose a hazard to the produce or create an opportunity for contamination. Do not locate them close to the field or a body of water where if the toilet upsets it could contaminate the produce or water source. The toilets must have toilet paper and be serviced on a regular schedule. The service person should fill out the log on the inside door. This is a record of when the unit was serviced. I have watched a serviceman clean the toilet then drive off without filling out the log. Growers are paying for service, but without this log the last date of service is unknown and auditors will look for the log. To save money, toilet facilities and wash stations can be placed on trailers.

Wash stations need to be located adjacent or close to the toilet facility, but not inside. A grower cannot see if someone has washed their hands if the wash station is inside the toilet. The wash station must have water that is microbially safe, hand soap, disposable towels or other hand drying device, towel disposal containers and have a tank to capture used hand wash water for disposal.

For more information on Worker Health and Hygiene download fact sheet #1230 from Rutgers publication website or contact our office for a copy.

EPA Inspections in New Jersey

Richard W. VanVranken, County Ag Agent and
Gary C. Pavlis, County Ag Agent, Atlantic County

We have been alerted that the EPA will be conducting inspections in New Jersey (only NJ) between May 1st and July 30th for compliance with the federal pesticide laws. This will include EPA targeting farms (a dozen or so) who would be required to train their workers and supply them with worker protection cards. Information about Worker Protection Standards training requirements are available on the NJDEP website.

If you need WPS cards for your workers, you can request them directly from DEP by call 609-984-6993 or contact your local Extension Office.

Along with the news about the EPA visiting New Jersey, during their normal inspections this summer the NJDEP will be on the lookout for farmers applying pesticides without a license. Be sure your license is up-to-date. There are upcoming tests if you need to retake the exam. The complete schedule for exams is listed on the DEP's website.

Proposed changes to the Agricultural Worker Protection Standards

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing changes to the Agricultural Worker Protection Standards (WPS). These changes are listed in the attached article at the end of this newsletter. The biggest changes for New Jersey growers are:

- Training workers and handlers every year with additional information instead of every five years
- Reduce time for training upon employment from 5 to 2 days.
- Establishes buffers around field during application. At the present it only applies to nurseries and greenhouses. The buffers would vary from 25-100 feet depending on the pesticide being applied.
- Retaining recorders for two years

This is just a proposal at the present time. EPA is looking for comments on all the proposed changes until June 17. If you want more details or would like to comment on the proposed changes type "Proposed Agricultural Workers Standards" into a search engine and it will direct you to the EPA website.

AGRICULTURAL WORKER PROTECTION STANDARD (WPS) COMPARISON OF THE MAJOR NEW PROPOSED PROTECTIONS TO THE EXISTING PROTECTIONS



Ashley Nelson Photo

PROPOSED NEW PROTECTIONS	CURRENT PROTECTIONS
Pesticide Safety Training	
Train workers and handlers every year. Stricter qualification for trainers of workers.	Train workers and handlers every 5 years.
Expand training content to include information on reducing take-home exposure. Workers and handlers would be trained on reducing take-home exposure, the hazards from residues on clothing, and warned not to take containers home.	No training provided on reducing take-home exposure. Workers and handlers are trained on hazards from residues on clothing, and warned not to take containers home.
Reduce "grace period" to 2 days before full WPS training is required, expand the content of the abbreviated, pre-"grace period" training, and require distribution of information sheet listing training points.	Grace period is 5 days and there is less content to the abbreviated training, and no information sheet.
Require recordkeeping of training for 2 years.	Recordkeeping of training is not required.
Mandatory Posting of No Entry Signs	
Require posting of treated areas when Restricted-Entry Interval (REI) is greater than 48 hours. The REI is the interval after application during which worker entry is generally prohibited, except as allowed under the early entry exceptions.	Either oral or posted notification is acceptable for REIs of any length, unless the pesticide labeling requires both.
Minimum Age	
Require pesticide handlers and early-entry workers to be 16 years old.	No minimum age.
Members of owner's immediate family are exempt from this (and most other) requirements of the WPS.	No minimum age requirement.
No Entry Buffer Areas Adjacent to Areas being treated on Farms and Forests	
Prohibit entry into 25-100 foot buffer areas around the field during pesticide application on farms, forests, nurseries, and greenhouses to protect persons from pesticide overspray and fumes. The buffer size depends on the type of application.	Applies only in nurseries and greenhouses.
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Respirators and Closed Systems	
Adopt the OSHA standard for respirators: fit test, medical evaluation, and training. Require recordkeeping to document completion of these requirements.	Employer must provide the respirator listed on the pesticide labeling and ensure it fits. Recordkeeping is not required.
Add specific performance standard requirements for closed systems based on California (CA) standard to permit PPE exceptions. Does not include the CA requirement to use closed systems for certain types of pesticides.	The closed system definition fails to provide specific criteria for the PPE exception.

AGRICULTURAL WORKER PROTECTION STANDARD (WPS)

COMPARISON OF THE MAJOR NEW PROPOSED PROTECTIONS TO THE EXISTING PROTECTIONS

PROPOSED NEW PROTECTIONS	CURRENT PROTECTIONS
Hazard Communications	
<p>Require employer to maintain and make available to workers, handlers, or their authorized representatives application-specific information, labeling and Safety Data Sheets (SDS). Retain this information for 2 years.</p> <p>Remove burdensome requirement to post application-specific information at central display.</p>	<p>No requirement to make safety information available to authorized representative.</p> <p>Record keeping is not required, except, application-specific information must be posted at a central display until 30 days after the REI expires.</p>
Notification for Early-Entry Workers	
<p>In rare circumstances, early-entry workers can enter while REI is in effect. For these situations, provide notification of the pesticide application (what was applied, when and where), specific task to be performed, and amount of time the worker is allowed to remain in the treated area, along with the pesticide hazard information from the labeling.</p>	<p>Early-entry workers must be informed only of hazards written on pesticide labeling.</p>
<p>Require recordkeeping for 2 years of the notifications that are provided to early-entry workers.</p>	<p>Recordkeeping is not required.</p>
Definitions	
<p>Expand the definition of "immediate family" to more accurately reflect farm families that qualify for the exemption from most WPS requirements.</p>	<p>Currently the definition does not include family members such as grandparents, grandchildren and in-laws.</p>

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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BLUEBERRY BULLETIN

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

I would like to see an article on the following subjects: _____

I would like to comment on the following articles: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____

Comment: _____

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Published By
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