

PLANT & PEST ADVISORY

CRANBERRY EDITION \$1.50

AUGUST 2, 2001



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Insect Update 1

Insect Update

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✓ **Flea beetles:** Growers should be on the look out for Flea beetle infestations in the next 2-3 weeks. Flea beetle adults are 1/8 to 1/5 inch long, shiny black, with a reddish sheen on the front half. Adults can be distinguished by their jumping habit. Adults mostly feed on terminal foliage, skeletonizing the leaves from the lower surface. Young beds with lush growth are more vulnerable to Flea beetle infestations. On occasion adults may also feed on berries. Damaged berries will have surface scars. Cranberries can tolerate substantial damage to the foliage at this stage of the crop. No specific thresholds are established for this insect. Only severe infestations of Flea beetles may require an insecticide application. Sevin 4F at 3-6 pt / acre may provide effective control of Flea beetles.

✓ **Spotted fireworm and Sparganothis fruitworm:** The second flight of both species is around the corner. Pheromone trap catches of Spotted fireworm are expected to peak around 18-22 August. Spotted fireworm lays its eggs in large masses of up to 200 eggs, mostly on weeds in and around the bogs. These egg-masses will begin to appear in the next 4-5 days. Parasites belonging to the genus *Trichogramma* attack the eggs of both Spotted fireworm and Sparganothis fruitworm and cause significant egg mortality in the second generation. Both these species overwinter as early instar larvae on the bog floor. Therefore, larvae in this generation do not cause any damage to the crop. □

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