

# PLANT & PEST ADVISORY

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## Crop Insurance Deadline for New Jersey Perennial Fruits

*From USDA Risk Management Agency Press Release, Sept. 27, 2001.*

The final date to obtain crop insurance on apples, blueberries, cranberries, or peaches in New Jersey for the 2002 crop year is *November 20, 2001*. Current policyholders likewise have until November 20 to make any changes to their existing contracts. As a result of significant increases in premium subsidies in 2000, crop insurance is now even more cost effective, especially at the higher levels of protection. New Jersey apple producers can also select from various quality options and price elections to help maximize the management of risk for their operations. Fruit growers are strongly urged to contact a local crop insurance agent as soon as possible for more detailed information and premium quotes. For a list of crop insurance agents in your area, contact the local USDA Farm Service Agency office or logon to the following Risk Management Agency web site: <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/>.

*Submitted by Win Cowgill, Agricultural Agent. □*

## Will Soil Survive Copper Pesticides?

*Reprinted from Journal of Environmental Quality, Vol. 30, Sept. - Oct. 2001.*

Copper (Cu) sprays are widely used agriculturally to control plant diseases and are acceptable in organic agriculture, partly because Cu is a natural product with relatively low mammalian toxicity. A study by Epstein and Bassein estimated the amount of Cu that loaded into soil in fields where multiple pesticide applications are made each year. Because Cu tends to accumulate in the topsoil, and many soil microorganisms that are essential for long-term soil function are harmed by Cu, the authors question whether current use of Cu is a sustainable practice in some fruit and nut orchards that are heavily treated.

*L. Epstein, Pesticide Applications of Copper on Perennial Crops in California, 1993 to 1998. J. Environ. Qual. 30: 1844-1847.*

*Submitted by Joseph Heckman, Specialist in Soil Fertility. □*

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