

PLANT & PEST ADVISORY

CRANBERRY EDITION \$1.50

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Insect Update

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Our scouting in the past week has revealed the presence of **spotted fireworm**, **sparganothis fruitworm**, and **blossomworm** on several bogs around the Chatsworth area. In addition to these caterpillars, we are finding a few nymphs of **leafhoppers** in our sweep net samples. Spotted fireworm larvae are mostly in the third and early fourth instar stages at this time. They pass through six instars before reaching the pupal stage. Larvae overwintering on the dams and along the ditches generally emerge before emergence inside the bog. Spotted fireworm larvae will begin to tie several uprights together to construct shelters in the next few days. They are not as easy to control or sample with sweep nets once they form these thick web-bings. Sparganothis emergence, on the other hand, has just started. Most of these larvae are very young. They will continue to emerge from overwintering sites for at least another 7-10 days. A few blossomworm larvae were also found in the sweep nets. Their emergence will also continue for another 7-10 days. Blossomworm larvae will become nocturnal in another 10-14 days.

Both Sparganothis fruitworm and spotted fireworm have two generations each season, whereas blossomworm has a single generation. Sparganothis fruitworm and spotted fireworm populations can be controlled very effectively with post-pollination application of insecticides. Unless populations are extremely high, control measures may not be necessary against these larvae in the first generation.

Overall, it is perhaps a bit too early to use an insecticide to suppress all these different caterpillar pests at this time. I expect the larval populations to keep going up for another 7-10 days. If you use an insecticide too soon, you may have to go with a second application later during the pre-pollination period (for later emerging larvae). My recommendation is to wait another 5-7 days and decide what areas/bogs require an insecticide intervention depending on infestation levels and choose one of several options we have. Unlike a few years ago, we now have insecticides that you can use right up to bloom and during bloom to control caterpillars without harming honey bees and other pollinators.

Confirm 2F is an Insect Growth Regulator (IGR) insecticide that is effective in managing all caterpillar pests. This product is safe to parasites and predators and should therefore help in increasing the abundance of natural enemy populations. SpinTor 2SC is a new reduced-risk insecticide that just got registered on cranberries during the 2002 season. In our small plot experiments, this insecticide has per-

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Highlights from Cranberry Twilight Meeting-May 8, 2003

Ray Samulis, Burlington County Agricultural Agent

Despite the poor weather 40 growers and others attended this year's Cranberry growers Twilight Meeting held at the Phil Marucci Research Center in Oswego. The program started with a BBQ consisting of sausage, peppers, salad and roasted eggplant. The first speaker of the evening was Dr. Brad Majek who filled growers in on new herbicide labels for cranberries and paid particular attention to the new Section 18 for Kerb 50-W. This special registration will expire on December 15, 2003 and will have some uses under our New Jersey growing conditions for controlling **Dodder**. For those unfamiliar with this weed, it is one of a few truly parasitic weeds we have in the area that will literally kill cranberry vines, blueberry bushes, and any other plant it attaches itself to. Many people think English ivy is parasitic due to its attaching roots but these roots are only for attachment, unlike those of the dodder. Growers will be required to send a waiver of liability to Dow AgroSciences if they intend to use this treatment.

Dr. George Hamilton of Rutgers alerted the group to the new changes in the pesticide codes. Many of the new requirements only affect commercial growers and not private applicators such as cranberry growers. There are new requirements on the record-keeping sheet which will now require that the responsible applicator's pesticide license will have to be added to the record forms. One item in the pesticide credit area that was not mentioned is that under the leadership of Somerset County Agricultural Agent Nick Polanin, there is now a web site where growers can get one pesticide credit on-line. This may be useful; our office receives many calls where a grower just needs one credit and only has a few weeks to get it.

Drs. Polavarapu and Ricardo informed the group about what was happening in the field regarding current insect pressures and introduced the growers to some of the new research areas that are going to be pursued during this year's growing season. Specific questions were answered particularly around the timing of some of the new insecticide sprays. Some insects are being trapped, however the low growing degree-days and generally cold weather is affecting the development of insects. Dan Schiffauer of Ocean Spray presented information about the new fungicide label for Abound, and how this material can play a part in an overall IPM program with particular use for **cranberry rot control**.

Prior to the 40 growers receiving the 4 pesticide credits, I concluded the meeting with 3 messages. First, after last year's farm labor "raids" we have been alerted to the fact the DEP has decided to expand these inspec-

Online CORE Pesticide Credit

David Smela, Public Information Assistant, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Middlesex County

Rutgers Cooperative Extension is now offering a pesticide re-certification core credit online for NJDEP licensed applicators.

At www.ifplantscouldtalk.rutgers.edu, simply click on "Pesticide Use and Storage Learning Center" in the left hand column to access the easy to follow directions. This initial module reviews pesticide storage safety procedures, and provides 1 Core credit for NJ licensed pesticide applicators. This site may be visited as often as you'd like, but the Core credit can be earned only once each year. The module takes about 30 minutes to complete. To receive your credit you will be required to take a pre and post evaluation on pesticide storage sheds, a short questionnaire about the site and then a form with your name, license number, and birth date. At the end of the lesson, you will need to print out your license credit registration form, sign it where indicated, and mail it along with a \$10 check or money order made out to "Rutgers, The State University of NJ" to the address listed on the form. □

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formed very well against caterpillar pests. The suggested use rate is around 6-8 fl oz per acre. My recommendation is to use one of these two insecticides during the pre-pollination period and stick with a broad-spectrum organophosphate like Lorsban, Guthion, or Diazinon for the post-pollination period. If you have very severe infestations of caterpillar pests or have non-caterpillar pests (I cannot think of many pests in this category) during the pre-pollination period, you may consider using a more effective broad-spectrum organophosphate such as Orthene 97, which is harder to use during the post-pollination period because of the 75 PHI requirement. □

Gypsomoth: This is the time to begin looking for gypsomoth larval infestations. First instar larvae are being found in bogs closer to wooded areas. Gypsy moth eggs will continue to hatch for another 5-7 days. □

tions to now include irrigation records. Make sure you have the proper logs to verify your actual water use. Second, the water use office has new personnel and it remains to be seen whether this speeds up current backlogs of permitting that growers desperately need in light of last year's drought. Third, I will continue to emphasize farm safety in forms of newsletters and a safety twilight meeting with renewed significance due to the loss of respected colleague Dr Steve Johnston in recent weeks. □

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