

# PLANT & PEST ADVISORY

CRANBERRY EDITION \$1.50

MAY 20, 2004



## INSIDE

**Caterpillar Activity ..... 1**

**In Memoriam ..... 2**

**Rutgers EcoComplex Hosts  
NE Branch Agronomy-Soils  
Meeting ..... 3**

## Caterpillar Activity

*James D. Barry, Ph.D., Post Doctoral Research Associate*

*Editor's Note: Dr. Barry has worked as a Post Doctorate with Dr. Polavarapu in both blueberry and cranberry research for a little over a year. He received his doctorate in entomology from University of California, Riverside and his undergraduate degree from Cornell University. Dr. Barry hopes to continue their research and will provide the pest information for this newsletter.*

**Cranberry Blossom Worm** – In New Jersey this is one of the three most important cranberry pests. Adults (moths) lay eggs in October on debris or dead vines in cranberry beds. These eggs overwinter and hatch over a period of several weeks. This year we found 1<sup>st</sup> instar larvae during the first week of May. Currently most of the larvae are in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> instars. Cranberry blossom worm has a total of 6 instars. In the first few instars the larvae actively feed during the day (and also at night), so day sweeping can provide a good estimate of larval abundance. However, in later instars the larvae become almost entirely nocturnal. As a result, day sweeping no longer provides an adequate estimate of the larvae present. When the larvae become nocturnal, night sweeping (9pm – 1am) should be the preferred sampling method. In our research trials we have gone out hourly from 9pm until 1am to determine peak feeding activity. We found that activity of these late instars varied from day to day. As a result, we are unable to predict peak activity, which is likely influenced by many factors, such as humidity, temperature, soil and moisture. Despite this variability, night sweeping was demonstrated to be much more effective than day sweeping. **We recommend night sweeping within the next week, prior to your first spray.**

In the future, we may be able to identify areas likely to be infested with blossom worm larvae, when eggs are laid in the fall. Traps baited with the blossom worm sex pheromone were placed in cranberry beds in the fall of 2003. This spring we are night sweeping these same beds to determine how well the number of larvae corresponds to the number of adult moths captured last fall.

Other caterpillars that are being found include late instar larvae of **Spotted Fireworm**. Adult flight of the first generation of spotted fireworm is likely to occur during the first week of June. In addition, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> instar **Sparganothis Fruitworm** are also being found at this time. **Pyramid worms**, which are large cutworms, have been found in some bogs, but in general this insect is usually not present. □

## In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Sridhar Polavarapu on Friday May 7, 2004, in the company of his family. Sridhar was one of the most respected faculty members in his department, college, and the New Jersey agricultural community. He was a true land grant scholar whose service to New Jersey and dedication to teaching and mentoring will be greatly missed by the Cook College and NJAES community.

Sridhar, born in India and recently turning 43, came to Rutgers as an extension specialist in 1994, after completing his Doctorate at the University of New Brunswick in Canada. Sridhar received many honors during his career. Most recently, he was honored by Cook College and the NJAES with the Abraham Weisblatt Award, an endowed award that recognizes "across the board" excellence in teaching, research and outreach. He was also recently honored by the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture with a resolution to thank Dr. Sridhar Polavarapu for his service to New Jersey agriculture and the blueberry and cranberry industries.

Sridhar was unpretentious and always greeted you with a smile and a twinkle in his eye that made you feel at ease. He was passionate about carrying out only the highest quality of research that would benefit the agricultural community. Sridhar spent a large portion of his time at the Blueberry and Cranberry Research and Extension Center in Chatsworth with his staff, students and post docs. Sridhar's primary research dealt with diseases and pest control in blueberry and cranberry bogs. He also served the apiary and small fruit industries. Sridhar was one of the extension specialists department's most sought after extension educators. This was not only because of his knowledge but also his caring personality and ability to relate to his clientele. Sridhar also was a frequent lecturer in several entomology courses at Cook College, and the students loved his lectures.

Sridhar balanced his dedication to agriculture with an ardent dedication to his family. He is survived by his wife, Madhavi; his daughter Sameera; and his son, Vinay.

Condolences may be sent to his family at 11 Lexington Court, Mount Laurel, 08054.

Arrangements have been made for an educational fund for Sridhar's children. Those interested in making a donation can make checks payable to "Sridhar's Children's Fund", and send them to Kathleen Phalen at Haines and Haines, 3432A New Gretna Rd., Chatsworth, NJ 08019.

*Keith R. Cooper*  
*Executive Dean*  
*Cook College, Rutgers University*

*Editor's Note: Despite the discomfort during the late stages of his illness, Sridhar never wavered in his commitment to his growers. He continued his timely contributions to this newsletter, never missing an issue. It was a privilege to work with Sridhar and he will be sorely missed.*

# Rutgers EcoComplex Hosts Northeastern Branch

## Agronomy-Soils Meeting along with Certified Crop Advisor Training Programs in Nutrient Management and in Turfgrass Science

Joseph Heckman, Ph.D., Specialist in Soil  
Science

You are invited to attend the 2004 Branch American Society Agronomy-Soil Science Society America meeting on July 11 - 14, 2004 at the Rutgers EcoComplex, Bordentown, NJ. The meeting features an optional pre-meeting tour and a Sunday evening lecture on renewable energy, followed by a reception.

The meeting also features a symposium on Monday morning, and volunteered oral and poster presentations on Tuesday and Wednesday. Each afternoon is a choice of tours highlighting New Jersey crops and soils.

On Wednesday, there will be special sessions for certified professionals, including Certified Crop Advisers on nutrient management and turf grass science. Continuing Education Units for Nutrient Management and Soil and Water Management have been submitted.

### Renewable Energy Symposium

The "Harvesting Renewable Energy from Agriculture" symposium will feature several guest lectures on various aspects of renewable energy. Topics will include Producing Methane and Energy from Manure, On-Farm Wind Energy, Soil Electric Energy, and Energy Crops in the form of Ethanol, Bio-diesel, and Biomass.

Rounding out the event is Paper/Poster Sessions, Graduate Student Paper Competition and a Branch Directors Business Meeting.

### New Jersey Area Tours

Participants at this year's meeting have a choice of several tours including field research projects related to vegetables, tree fruit, and field crops; soil conservation, nutrient management, and cultural practices related to production of nursery crops; Rutgers Cranberry and Blueberry Research Station; soil pits and road cuts to allow participants the opportunity to examine several soils; Rutgers Adelphia Research Farm Tour for turfgrass breeding and management, soil fertility research plots, and underutilized perennial food crops. Visit the tour picture gallery on the web site: [www.ecocomplex.rutgers.edu/nebasa/](http://www.ecocomplex.rutgers.edu/nebasa/).

For registration and accommodations information, go to the meeting website: [www.ecocomplex.rutgers.edu/nebasa/](http://www.ecocomplex.rutgers.edu/nebasa/). Registration can be done online. To receive a registration form by fax or mail, contact Joseph Heckman at Cook College at 732-932-9711, ext. 119.

## Nutrient Management - Certified Crop Advisor Training Program July 14, 2004

Sponsored by Northeast Branch, American Society  
of Agronomy & Northeast Branch,  
Soil Science Society of America  
CCA - CEU credits: NM = 2.5; SW = 1.0

12:25 PM	<i>Welcome</i> - Dr. Stephanie Murphy, Director of Rutgers Soil Test Laboratory
12:30-1:00 PM	<i>Water and Nutrient Management for Nursery Operations</i> Dr. Gladis Zinati, Extension Specialist in Nursery Management Department of Plant Biology and Pathology, Rutgers University
1:00-1:30 PM	<i>The Need for In-season Application of Nitrogen</i> Dr. Tom Morris, Extension Agronomist Department of Plant Science, University of Connecticut
1:30-2:00 PM	<i>Optimum Nitrogen Fertilization of Cool- season Grasses</i> Dr. Doug Beegle, Professor of Agronomy, Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, Pennsylvania State University
2:00-2:30 PM	Discussion and Coffee Break
2:30-3:00 PM	<i>Phosphorus Management for Dairy Farms</i> Dr. Quirine Ketterings, Extension Soil Scientist, Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, Cornell University
3:00-3:30 PM	<i>Manure Management</i> Dr. Bill Jokela, Professor of Agronomy Department of Plant and Soil Science, University of Vermont
3:30-4:00 PM	<i>Climate Change Impacts on Soil Fertility and Soil Quality</i> Dr. John Jemison, Extension Soil Scien- tist, University of Maine
4:00-4:30 PM	<i>The Phosphorus Index for Agronomic and Environmental Nutrient Manage- ment Planning</i> Dr. Frank Coale, Professor of Soil Science, Department Natural Resources and Landscape Architecture
4:30-5:00 PM	Discussion and Concluding Remarks

**Recent Advances in Turfgrass Science  
Certified Advisor Training Program  
July 14, 2004**

A Turfgrass Management Workshop Sponsored by  
Northeast Branch - American Society of Agronomy &  
Northeast Branch - Soil Science Society of America &  
Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science  
CCA – CEU credits: CM = 1.0; SW = 0.5; PM = 1.5

- 12:30 PM Welcome - Bruce B. Clarke, Director, Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science
- 12:35-1:00 PM *Current perspectives in turfgrass management*  
Dr. James Murphy, Associate Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Management, Department of Plant Biology and Pathology, Rutgers University
- 1:00-1:25 PM *Soil fertility and disease suppression*  
Dr. Joseph Heckman, Extension Specialist in Soil Fertility, Department of Plant Biology and Pathology, Rutgers University
- 1:25–1:50 PM *New and emerging diseases of cool- and warm-season turf*  
Dr. Bruce Clarke, Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Pathology, Department of Plant Biology and Pathology, Rutgers University
- 1:50 –2:15 PM *Controlling Poa annua and Poa trivialis with Bispyribac: A new era in golf and sports turf weed control*  
Dr. Steve Hart, Assistant Extension Specialist in Turf and Ornamental Weed Science, Department of Plant Biology and Pathology, Rutgers University
- 2:15–2:45 PM Discussion and Coffee Break
- 2:45-3:10 PM *New developments in the management of turfgrass insects*  
Dr. Albrecht Koppenhofer, Associate Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Entomology, Department of Entomology, Rutgers University
- 3:10-3:35 PM *Breeding turfgrasses for pest and stress tolerance*  
Dr. Bill Meyer, Professor Turfgrass Breeding Department of Plant Biology and Pathology, Rutgers University
- 3:35–4:05 PM *Water conservation and irrigation management in cool-season turf*  
Dr. Bingru Huang, Associate Professor in Turfgrass Physiology, Department of Plant Biology and Pathology, Rutgers University
- 4:05-4:30 PM Discussion and Concluding Remarks

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FIRST CLASS

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