

PLANT & PEST ADVISORY

CRANBERRY EDITION \$1.50

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Field Update

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Bloom is for all intents and purposes, over. There are a few late drawn beds that are still in bloom, but the vast majority of New Jersey cranberry beds have finished bloom. The consensus opinion is that pollination activity was adequate, but not fantastic. Fruit set appears to be normal with earlier flowers setting and sizing fruit and the later flowers becoming pinheads. Fruit size seems to be ahead of normal and I attribute this to rainfall and heat. Some farms, but not all, have had quite a bit of rain during July and it certainly has been hot everywhere. Fruit seemed smaller than normal last year but the summer weather was cooler than in recent years. Hot weather seems to lead to large fruit size. New Jersey has the largest average fruit size of any of the growing regions and the hottest growing season weather as well.

Sparganothis trap catch is done and most traps have been removed by this time (see below). Trap catch numbers fell during the last few weeks and post-pollination sprays for this pest have largely been applied by now. Based on trap counts from around the state it would appear that most farms would not require a spray for *Sparganothis*. *Sparganothis* has been the primary target for post-pollination spraying since I arrived in New Jersey and it will take growers time to get used to the idea of not automatically spraying for this pest.

If not *Sparganothis*, then what? **Blunt-nosed leafhopper** is one pest that might be targeted after bloom. **Spotted fireworm** has been a major pest in recent years and many growers were applying a post-pollination spray aimed at both *Sparganothis* and spotted fireworm. Spotted fireworm has all but vanished over the last two years but there is no reason to believe that it won't flare up in the future. Scouting for spotted fireworm is accomplished by looking for egg masses on weed leaves on the bed and surrounding dams. There is no established threshold for this insect but growers make decisions based on past experience. Spotted fireworm control, post bloom, is probably best provided by using either Confirm or Intrepid during late bloom. **Flea beetle** may show up later in the summer and can do significant damage if numbers are high enough. New Jersey has been lucky enough to not require spraying for **cranberry fruitworm**, although it certainly does show up on beds in low numbers. I find low levels of fruit chewing at the end of bloom on some beds and I

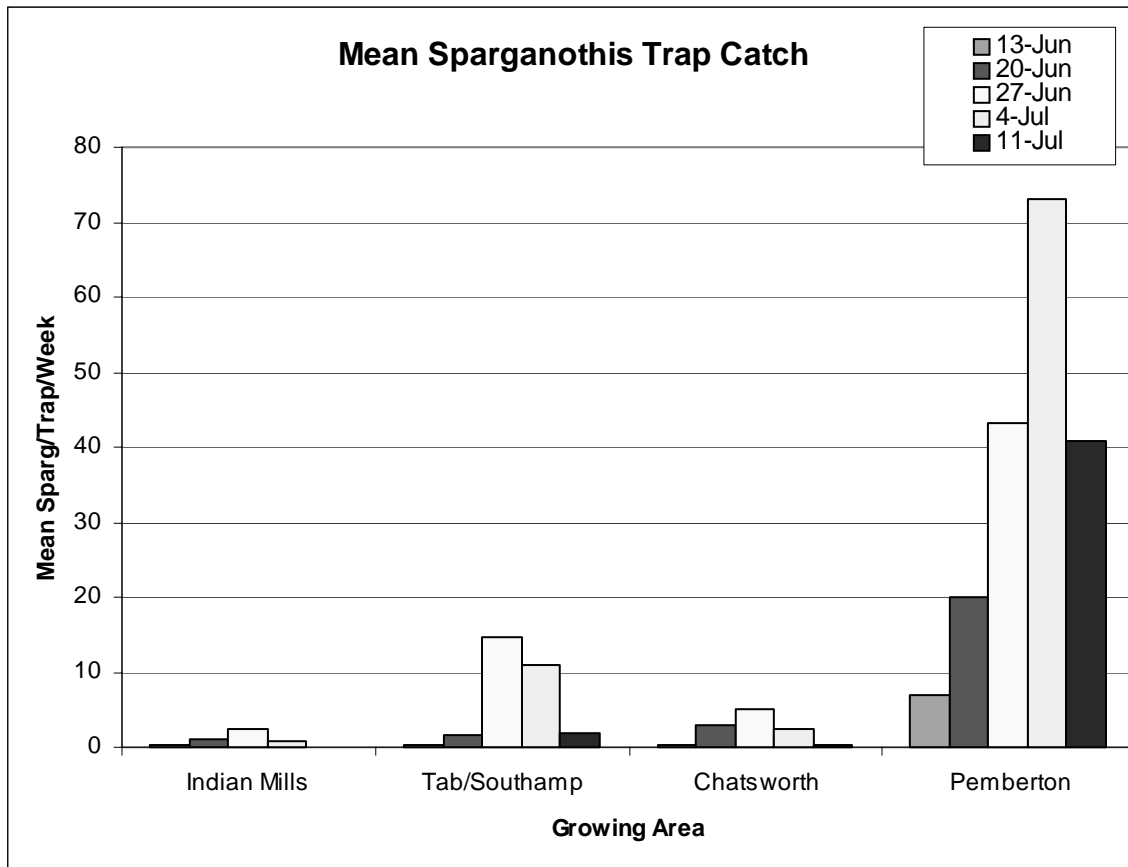
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believe that this is caused by **spanworms** that hatch during bloom. I rarely see this damage at levels high enough to warrant spraying, but it can happen. In short, although the intensive scouting of early season ends once bloom starts, it is still a good idea for growers to walk their beds for the rest of the season and keep an eye on fruit damage. Randomly sampling fruit and counting damage is a good way to make an informed decision on late season sprays.


NJ Mosquito Control Hotline and Website

A New Jersey "Hotline" for mosquito questions is available at 1-888-NO-NJ-WNV (888-666-5968). Also, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Office of Mosquito Control Coordination and the New Jersey State Mosquito Control Commission have developed a Mosquito Control and West Nile Virus Information website at: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/mosquito>. Information on ordering the handbook, Best Management Practices for Mosquito Control and Freshwater Wetlands Management is available on the website. □



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