

PLANT & PEST ADVISORY

CRANBERRY EDITION \$1.50

JUNE 27, 2006



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Insect Update

Cesar Rodriguez-Saona, Ph.D., Specialist in Entomology and Dan Schiffhauer, Agricultural Scientist, Ocean Spray Cranberries

There have not been many changes in insect incidence since the last newsletter.

Our trap counts of **Sparganothis** moths have remained fairly low, but are climbing. So far, the high count for one week has been 129 moths, which is not all that high by historical standards. Moths should continue to emerge; peak flight should occur in the next couple of weeks.

Our pheromone traps continue to catch **spotted fireworm** moths. However, we have seen only a few egg masses. All egg masses were found on weeds. Spotted fireworm was almost impossible to find last year but now appears to be rebounding. This makes sense: judicious spraying and natural enemies combined to drive spotted fireworm to low numbers. The natural enemy populations probably took a downturn once spotted fireworm levels dropped, and now the spotted fireworm is staging a comeback. Growers should remember the lessons learned fighting this pest during the 1990's: spray as little as possible and use Confirm or Intrepid before reaching for an OP such as Lorsban or Diazinon. Controlling weeds inside and around beds will prevent spotted fireworm infestations. Growers without too many broadleaved weeds could even clip the weeds and remove them before the spotted fireworm eggs hatch; a higher level example of biocontrol. Eggs of spotted fireworm will begin hatching from now onwards. More than half of the eggs will hatch by early July. An application of Intrepid 2F or Confirm 2F during bloom is recommended for controlling early instars spotted fireworm.

Cranberry blossomworm are now in the pre-pupal stage. This means that caterpillars will no longer cause any damage. The adult flight is expected to start the last week of August.

Notes on the use of the insect growth regulators Intrepid and Confirm:

- a) These compounds are non-toxic to insects other than caterpillars. Thus, they are relatively harmless to natural enemies and bees and can be used during bloom.

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- b) They are effective against caterpillar pests such as Sparganothis fruitworm, spotted fireworm, and blackheaded fireworm.
- c) They have no activity against other pests such as blunt-nosed leafhoppers.

Honey bee activity was very good until the wet weather moved in, but bees are still working when they get a chance. Bumblebee numbers appear to be higher than normal this year and that could be very important if the weather remains unsuitable for honeybees. You don't need a lot of good weather for successful pollination of cranberry because most uprights have, at most, 2-3 set fruit. Four to five good, sunny days are probably sufficient to set the majority of the crop if the bees are willing. □

Weekly Weather Summary

Keith Arnesen, Ph.D., Agricultural Meteorologist

Temperatures averaged much above normal, averaging 74 degrees north, 76 degrees central and 77 degrees south. Extremes were 93 degrees at Hammonton on the 22nd, and 57 degrees at Charlotteburg on the 21st. Weekly rainfall averaged 1.84 inches north, 1.78 inches central, and 2.28 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 2.28 inches at Downtown on the 24th to 25th. Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 80 percent north, 70 percent central and 61 percent south. Four inch soil temperatures averaged 69 degrees north, 74 degrees central and 75 degrees south.

Weather Summary for the Week Ending 8 am Monday 6/26/06										
WEATHER STATIONS	RAINFALL			TEMPERATURE				GDD BASE50		MON
	WEEK	TOTAL	DEP	MX	MN	AVG	DEP	TOT	DEP	%FC
CANOE BROOK	2.10	13.04	-2.82	90	62	75.	5	1064	306	94
CHARLOTTEBURG	.98	13.29	-2.73	86	57	72.	5	851	263	77
FLEMINGTON	3.34	16.51	1.36	89	59	74.	4	1019	233	100
NEWTON*	1.41	8.99	-5.44	86	58	73.	5	626	-37	84
FREEHOLD	1.76	14.48	-.41	89	62	76.	5	1028	152	92
LONG BRANCH	2.14	15.45	.49	88	65	75.	4	946	138	94
NEW BRUNSWICK	1.34	14.03	-.51	90	62	76.	3	1090	161	85
TOMS RIVER	2.25	12.08	-2.72	91	61	76.	5	1016	213	100
TRENTON	1.40	13.13	-.40	90	63	77.	4	1122	142	90
CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE	2.40	8.99	-4.14	91	66	76.	5	1039	157	100
DOWNTOWN	2.93	10.65	-2.75	91	64	77.	4	1092	93	100
GLASSBORO	.46	9.79	-4.70	90	65	78.	5	1248	270	51
HAMMONTON	2.35	10.78	-3.32	93	66	78.	5	1165	194	100
POMONA	3.24	12.15	-.66	92	66	77.	6	1064	176	100
SEABROOK	missing									
SOUTH HARRISON	0.80	9.41	-5.06	89	65	77.	NA	1232	NA	NA

*some past data is missing and therefore cumulative values and departures will be off.

WES KLINE — GDD BASE 40 PINEY HOLLOW
 LAST WEEK 202 (Ending 6/19/06)
 THIS WEEK 258 (Ending 6/26/06)

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