

The Blueberry Bulletin

A Weekly Update to Growers

July 11, 2019

Vol. 35, No. 12

CULTURE

Dr. Gary Pavlis, Ph.D.

Atlantic County Agricultural Agent

Farm visits this week showed the second picking of Bluecrop finishing up with possibly even Elliott starting this weekend. I heard good comments from many growers about the large crop and the good flat prices. With the mild winter we had I had predicted that there would be very little cold damage and the crop size seems to bear that out. So quality and quantity are very good in 2019. Mid-July marks a time when nitrogen applications should cease.

And, it is still not too late to get into the fields to prune out those canes with stem blight before the disease moves into the plant crown. Watch future newsletters for leaf analysis information as late July and early August are the best times to take your leaf samples. Remember that accurate fertilizer recommendations can only be made when a soil AND a leaf analysis is done.

INSECTS

Dr. Cesar Rodriguez-Saona, Extension Specialist in Blueberry Entomology, Rutgers University

Mr. Dean Polk, IPM Agent – Fruit

Ms. Carrie Denson, IPM Program Associate – Fruit

Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD): Trap counts indicate increasing population pressure. While trap captures are only relative, and there is no treatment threshold, trap counts have increased a minimum of 16x since the previous week. All plantings should continue to have protection. When treating Bluecrop, Elliott and other late fields, make sure to stay on a tight schedule. Machine picked Duke fields will have dropped fruit in which SWD will continue to breed. While we do not recommend spraying these fields; if those

fields border a field that is not yet picked, it doesn't hurt to include those edge rows with the covers used on still producing fields.

At this time of year, many growers are using pyrethroid programs. We had a question this week on the longevity of Danitol when used for SWD control. Like most pyrethroids, Danitol can be short lived, especially in sunny and hot weather. In this case, research data has shown that the active ingredient in Danitol, fenprothrin can break down quickly. Data

gleaned from the U.S. National Library of Medicine, [TOXNET](#): “Particulate-phase fenpropathrin will be removed from the atmosphere by wet and dry deposition. Fenpropathrin is also rapidly degraded by direct photolysis in the atmosphere and should not persist for more than a few days.” Therefore, remember that your spray programs should not be stretched, even though you might see the “light at the end of the tunnel.”

Blueberry Maggot (BBM): Adults continue to be captured at very low levels, and are “0” on most traps. Remember that the BBM is a regulated pest if you are still exporting

to Canada, and that the tolerance for fruit with larvae is still “0”.

Scale: Scale is not an issue, and we are still between the 1st and 2nd generations of Putnam Scale. For those growers with scale infested bushes, it’s a good idea to wait until the second generation of crawlers are present in another few weeks.

Aphids: Aphid infestations have decreased since last week, and should not be a problem for most growers. Isolated plantings still show up to 5-10 aphids per shoot, but the average percent terminal infestation is low.

Blueberry Traps

Atlantic County Traps

Week Ending	SWD	OB	BBM	SNLH
6/8	1.05	8.2	0	==
6/15	1.2	97	0	==
6/22	0.71	1381	0.21	0.21
6/29	4	2385	0.03	0.11
7/6	64	1856	0.06	0.15

Burlington County Traps

Week Ending	SWD	OB	BBM	SNLH
6/8	0.07	2.91	0	==
6/15	0.83	69	0	==
6/22	0.7	750	0.33	0.33
6/29	0.64	1113	0.125	0.8
7/6	100	2048	0.2	0.625

DISEASES

Anthracnose and Alternaria: Anthracnose field symptoms are present on Bluecrop. Some Alternaria is also present at levels that average 0.06% of scouted fruit.

Visit the *Blueberry Bulletin* webpage at
www.njaes.rutgers.edu/blueberry-bulletin