

# The Blueberry Bulletin

*A Weekly Update to Growers*

July 23, 2020

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- ❖ Visit the Blueberry Bulletin webpage at [njaes.rutgers.edu/blueberry-bulletin](http://njaes.rutgers.edu/blueberry-bulletin)
- ❖ The 2020 Commercial Blueberry Pest Control Recommendations for New Jersey is available on [njaes.rutgers.edu](http://njaes.rutgers.edu)

## **BLUEBERRY CULTURE**

**Dr. Gary C. Pavlis, Ph.D.**

**Atlantic County Agricultural Agent**

**Leaf Tissue Analysis:** Readers of this newsletter are aware that fertilizer recommendations for blueberries are based on leaf analysis. We have found that there is no correlation between the soil analysis and the amount of nutrients that actually enter the blueberry plant. Soil analysis is useful to determine pH, and maintain pH in the proper range, 4.5 - 4.8. Thus leaf analysis is critical to maintain the blueberry plant in a healthy, efficient, productive condition.

Leaf tissue analysis is a way of determining the actual nutritional status of plants. It is an excellent and inexpensive way of finding out if your fertilization program is working or if changes need to be made. The analysis provides information on foliar N, P, K, Ca, Mg, Mn, Fe, Cu, B and Zn levels for the leaves sampled, a fact sheet on what the levels should be for these plant nutrients, and recommendations for corrective measures if needed. Leaf tissue analysis can help pinpoint the source of problems and determine what measures may be needed to ensure proper nutrition of the crop. Interpretation of leaf tissue analysis is most accurate when the soil pH is within the proper range for blueberries, 4.5 - 4.8.

**When to Sample:** Sample healthy leaves during late July or early August.

**How to Sample:** Collect 30-50 leaves per sample. Leaves should be from the middle shoot, not old ones/not new ones. Sample different varieties separately, if possible. Collect leaves from as many bushes as possible in the sample area. Gently wash the leaves in tap water to rinse off soil or spray residue.

Allow the leaves to air dry until they are brittle before placing into a paper bag.

**The following laboratories can be considered:**

Agricultural Analytical Services Lab  
The Pennsylvania State University  
University Park, PA 16802  
Phone # 814-863-0841 (Cost \$24.00)

Agri-check Inc.  
P.O. Box 1350  
Umatilla, OR 97882  
Call Joe, Lab Manager at 541-922-4894 for  
Plant Analysis Fee Schedule  
Midwest Laboratories Inc (formerly A&L)  
13611 B Street  
Omaha, NE 68144  
Phone # 402-334-7770  
[www.midwestlabs.com](http://www.midwestlabs.com)

MDS Harris  
 621 Rose St  
 Lincoln, NE 68502  
 Phone # 402-437-4765

**Note: Growers are advised that the IPM Program is now taking leaf samples for nutritional analysis. Any growers wishing to request this service should submit a list of chosen fields to be sampled and can forward to any IPM Personnel.**

**BLUEBERRY INSECT**

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

***Mr. Dean Polk, IPM Agent – Fruit***

***Ms. Carrie Denson, IPM Program Associate – Fruit***

**Tailing Down...But Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD)** is still the main pest of concern. Bluecrop is being machine picked and Elliott has started full swing. Late season varieties still must be protected since SWD continues to build higher populations.

**Aphids:** Aphid populations have decreased to an average of 2.5% of terminals infested with a high of 25% last week. However with the heat wave, actual numbers as of this writing are even less. While we originally thought we might need some post-harvest applications to control this pest, the recent heat is cooking them in the fields. The combination of aphids not being able to take the heat, and the plant tissue starting to harden off will take care of this pest for the remainder of the season.

**Putnam Scale:** Scale infested fruit is very low at 0.02% infested fruit. Growers who have had any of this first generation damage should be prepared to treat those fields when second generation crawlers become active in 2-3 weeks.

**By the Numbers:**

Week Ending	% Injured Fruit							
	% LEPS Injured Fruit		% PC Injury Fruit		% Scale		% CBFW	
	Avg	Max	Avg	Max	Avg	Max	Avg	Max
5/11	0.05	0.1	0.2	0.3				
5/18	0.06	0.8	0.13	1.4				
5/25	0.122	1.1	0.43	3.8				
5/30	0.17	1.4	0.70	5.6				
6/6	0.122	1.1	0.43	3.8				
6/13	0.01	0.4	0.001	0.4	0.005	0.1		
6/19	0.003	0.2	0	0	0.02	0.5		
6/27	0.001	0.3	0.001	0.2	0.03	0.6	0.005	0.1
7/4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.03	0.5	0.0005	0.1
7/11	0.005	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.02	0.5	0.0	0.0
7/18	0	0	0	0	0.02	0.4	0	0

*Cooperating Agencies:* Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and County Boards of Chosen Freeholders. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.

Trap Counts												
Week Ending	CBFW-AC		CBFW-BC		SWD-AC		SWD-BC		OB-BC		OB-AC	
	Avg	Max	Avg	Max	Avg	Max	Avg	Max	Avg	Max	Avg	Max
5/11	0.1	1	0	0								
5/18	0	0	0	0								
5/25	0.1	1	0.25	1	0.8	7	0	0				
5/30	0	0	0.25	1	.75	5	.55	1				
6/6	5.5	34	0.75	3	2	8	2.1	5				
6/13	5.6	22	3.5	8	4	14	7.7	20	3.2	11	18	340
6/19	7.2	48	6.5	18	4.64	30	4.9	16	71.75	675	21.4	68
6/27	0	0	3.5	8	2.8	12	4.3	25	1834	13750	462	2025
7/4	0.22	1	1	3	4.17	16	11.3	46	2421	8775	976	5062
7/11	0.11	1	0.25	1	5.8	27	6.6	22	1093	5000	1997	6075
7/18	0.11	1	0.5	2	5.3	19	4.6	14	769	5000	1575	6750
Week Ending	SNLH – AC		SNLH-BC		BBM-AC		BBM-BC					
	Avg	Max	Avg	Max	Avg	Max	Avg	Max	Avg	Max	Avg	Max
6/27	0.14	3	0.8	4	0	0	0	0				
7/4	0.08	1	0.8	5	0.009	1	0	0				
7/11	0.12	1	1.82	6	0	0	0	0				
7/18	0.11	2	1.16	5	0	0	0	0				

Key: PC=plum curculio, Scale=Putnam scale, CFW=cranberry fruitworm, SWD=spotted wing drosophila, OB=oriental beetle, SNLH-sharpsnosed leafhopper, BBM=blueberry maggot, BC=Burlington County, AC=Atlantic County