

# The Blueberry Bulletin

*A Weekly Update to Growers*

April 14, 2021

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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**

In a previous newsletter I talked about the fact that an overwhelming number of farms had deficiencies in Copper and Iron. The best time to remedy this situation is in the spring when leaf expansion has occurred since foliar applications of these micro-nutrients are the most efficient way to get the nutrient into the plant. The chart below is a guide to micro-nutrient application.

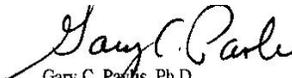
Lastly, with bloom commencing, frost damage is always a possibility. Most blueberry fields today do not have over-head sprinklers to protect the bloom from the cold. As most fields have gone to trickle irrigation there is the thought that not much can be done. Actually it has been shown that if a field is watered during the day there is less damage that occurs that evening from the frost. This is because a moist soil will absorb the heat from the sun and give it up during the evening.

Exactly how much protection is given will depend on numerous factors such as the soil type, presence of mulch, amount of heat absorbed, weed residue ect. But I believe it is worth the effort.

### **RUTGERS** New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station **Micro-nutrients sources and rates**

Nutrient	Product	Method	Rate
Boron	Solubor20	Foliar	1.5lb./A
Boron	Solubor20	Ground	5lb./A
Boron	Borax11	Ground	10lb./A
Copper	Cu chelate	Foliar	Label Rate
Iron	Fe chelate	Foliar	Label Rate
Mn	Mn chelate	Foliar	Label Rate
Mn	Mn sulfate	Foliar	2 lb./A
Zn	Zn chelate	Foliar	Label Rate

Cooperative Extension of Atlantic County

  
Gary C. Pavlis, Ph.D.  
Atlantic County Agricultural Agent

## BLUEBERRY INSECT

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

*Mr. Dean Polk, IPM Agent – Fruit*

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

**Cranberry Weevil (CB):** Over this past week there have been multiple farm sites where treatment for cranberry weevil was needed. Most activity was recorded in Atlantic County. No plum curculio or worms have been seen at this time. Cranberry weevil treatments should be completed well before bloom. It would be a good idea to leave about a 3 day spacing between the time that the last insecticides are applied and the time when bees are brought in. A summary of survey results is below. During this past week of scouting, weevil adults averaged 2.1 per push with a High of 21. About 80% of our samples near wooded areas have been above treatment levels. Therefore if you have fields with wooded borders and weevils present between 2-5 weevils per bush (healthy populations but just below or at threshold), then treat. This is because the weather will break and likely encourage weevil activity over the weekend, but using an insecticide Sunday or after may be too close to bringing bees in. Most bees are coming into fields around Tuesday 4/20. Given a 3 day window for any weevil insecticide to work and residual toxicity to dissipate before bees arrive, then the last prebloom application day for insecticides should be Saturday in the Hammonton area.

Week Ending	Adults/Bush (Beating Tray)		Leps./Bush (Beating Tray)		PC/Bush (Beating Tray)	
	Avg	Max	Avg	Max	Avg	Max
4/9	2.1	21	-	-	-	-

## Diseases

*By Peter V. Oudemans, Ph.D.*

*Professor and Extension Specialist*

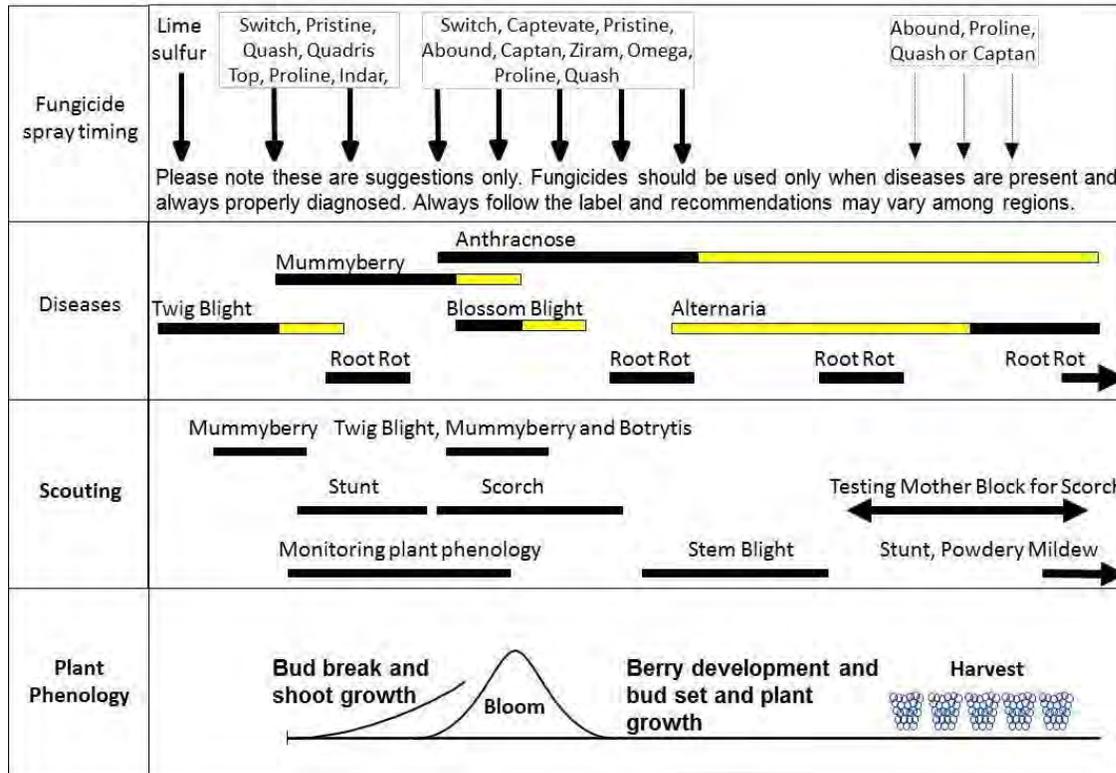
*Plant Pathology*

Timing	Phomopsis	Mummy berry	Anthracnose
Week of April 5	Applications should begin	Applications should begin	N/A
Material	Indar or propiconazole	Indar or propiconazole	----
Week of April 12	Continue with 2 <sup>nd</sup> application	Continue with 2 <sup>nd</sup> application	N/A
Material	Indar or propiconazole	Indar or propiconazole	----

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

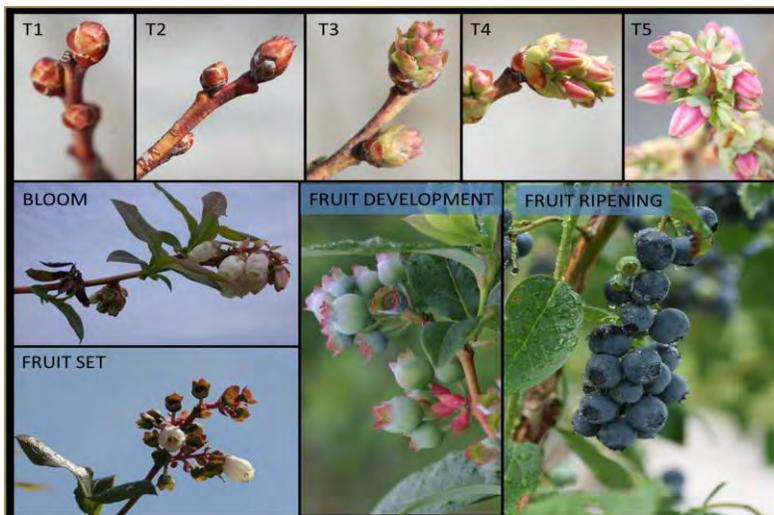
Week of April 20	N/A	N/A	Bloom Beginning
Material	----	----	Ziram is recommended

## In Season Blueberry Disease Management Northeastern USA



**Disease management choices:**

Our standard anthracnose management program is the Ziram/ Abound rotation. This seems to be the most effective for both controlling the disease and avoiding fungicide resistance. The ideal time to begin sprays corresponds to the opening of bloom. There are plenty of choices for anthracnose control as you can see above and certain situations call for alternatives. In years when Botrytis becomes a problem this disease will also be suppressed under the standard control program.



**Understanding the target:** The fungus causing anthracnose overwinters to a large extent in the scales surrounding the flower clusters. As the clusters open the fungus grows out of the scales, down the pedicel and penetrates the ovary of the developing flower. In the photos below you can see the position of the bud scales and ovaries. Also, you can see how the fungus travels down the pedicels when there is no disease controls. Targeting this tissue will provide the best disease control.

