

The Blueberry Bulletin

A Weekly Update to Growers

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- * Visit the Blueberry Bulletin webpage at www.njaes.rutgers.edu/blueberry-bulletin
- * The 2021 Commercial Blueberry Pest Control Recommendations for New Jersey is available on njaes.rutgers.edu

As we anticipate the arrival of our seasonal blueberry workers we want to share the most up-to-date information with you. The New Jersey Department of Health anticipates that about 50% of the incoming workers will not be vaccinated prior to their arrival in New Jersey. Workers who are in need of a COVID vaccine may have questions about the safety of the J&J vaccine, the most common vaccine available to farm workers in NJ. The CDC has released updated information [What do I need to know about Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine \(J&J/Janssen\) now? \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0623-covid-19-vaccine-janssen.html)

If you would like to determine if on-farm vaccinations are possible for your farm please email njfarmvax@njaes.rutgers.edu and a member of the Rutgers farmworker vaccination education program will connect you with your local Federally Qualified Health Center representative. For information on our states mega centers visit [COVID-19 Vaccine \(nj.gov\)](https://www.nj.gov/health/covid-19/vaccine/)

Updated information on COVID-19 and the vaccine can be found online at [Vaccine Information Resources for Farmers - Rutgers On-Farm Food Safety](https://njaes.rutgers.edu/vaccine-information/)

CULTURE

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

Blueberry harvest is progressing at a rapid pace due to the recent heat spell. Duke is in the second or third pick, Bluecrop has started and the new Draper fields are also ready to pick. With all this ripe fruit on the plants and the heat wave continuing it is critical to provide irrigation to the plants to decrease plant stress and berries from shriveling. Remember that blueberries are 84% water, so water stress will decrease fruit quality.

I have also seen fields with plants that have canes with fruit but no leaves. This is not scorch. The lack of leaves usually points to a root problem. The IPM program has shown that grubs can be found in many of our fields. Follow the recommendations in this newsletter for control measures. Some fields I looked at this week showed a lack of leaves and that was due to wet soils. This is always a

difficult problem to fix. Increasing soil drainage is not an overnight fix. A call to the Soil Conservation folks may be warranted.

Lastly, some growers I have talked to are considering planting the variety Draper. This variety appears to be less susceptible to anthracnose than Bluecrop. Please remember that to grow Draper the soil pH must be quite high, in the 5.2 to 5.5 range. I would not recommend planting, or growing this variety unless you can get the soil pH into the proper range.



INSECTS

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

Blueberries:

Aphids: Aphids are still being found. Colonies are in a similar range as during last week, the average shoot infestation rate is 9.32% of new shoots infested with a high of 70%. If aphid populations are present, they should be controlled to as best as practical, but while working around PHIs and SWD control.

Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD): Populations are increasing, and as measured by red sticky card counts, and maximum trap counts are about double the numbers we saw the previous week. Any field that is colored or starting to color should have protection. Most materials that control SWD also control blueberry maggot (except Delegate and Entrust, which provide suppression). Larval infestation pressure has significantly increased. Reapplications are necessary if insecticide has been applied, only to be washed off in a thunderstorm. Make sure to target the bottom half of the bush as well as berries dropped on the ground, in addition to the tops of the plants. Adult flies are the most active during the early morning hours and at dusk. Therefore, applications of insecticide during the very early morning hours and twilight will be more effective than if applied during late morning to mid-day.

Blueberry Maggot (BBM): No blueberry maggot adults have been found yet. Historically we have usually found the first adult maggot fly by June 10-15. The late and possibly smaller population is probably due to the presence of SWD sprays.

Oriental Beetle (OB): Adults continue their emergence as they start to mate and lay eggs. Young larvae should continue to be present over the next several weeks. OB treatments should go on by mid-July, or prior to the grubs molting into their 3rd instar stage.

Anthracnose: Field level anthracnose infections have increased slightly since last week. At sites where anthracnose is easily found, levels have almost doubled. Therefore, fungicide applications

are still merited. Abound, Pristine, Switch and Phosphite materials have a “0” day PHI. Not all materials can be aerially applied. See the 2021 Blueberry Pest Control Recommendations for additional products.

By the Numbers Summary:

% Leafroller/Surface Lep. Injury and Plum Curculio Injured Fruit				
Week Ending	% Leps injury to Berries		% PC injury to Berries	
	Avg	Max	Avg	Max
5/14	0.13	2	0.68	7.8
5/21	0.13	1.8	0.80	9.8
5/28	0.013	0.5	0.13	3.7
6/4	0.002	0.2	0.008	0.3
6/11	0.002	0.3	0.005	0.4
6/18	0.001	0.2	0	0
6/25	0.001	0.1	0	0

% Cranberry Fruitworm, Cherry Fruitworm and Scale Injured Fruit						
Week Ending	% CFBW injury to Berries		% CFW injury to Berries		% Scale Injury	
	Avg	Max	Avg	Max	Avg	Max
6/4	0.009	0.1	0.005	0.1		
6/11	0.014	0.6	0.001	0.1	0.012	0.9
6/18	0.001	0.1	0.015	0.7	0.018	0.4
6/25	0.001	0.1	0.002	0.2	0.021	0.9

Spotted Wing Drosophila Males per Red Sticky Card				
Week Ending	SWD(AC)		SWD(BC)	
	Avg	Max	Avg	Max
6/4	1.5	8	0.375	3
6/11	1.84	9	1.77	1
6/18	3.4	25	2.86	6
6/25	5.3	42	2.87	9

Oriental Beetle Trap Counts				
Week Ending	OB(AC)		OB(BC)	
	Avg	Max	Avg	Max
6/4	3.9	32	0.25	1
6/11	185.72	2025	15.8	60
6/18	292	1350	285	2025
6/25	1767	11000	974	6075

Blueberry Maggot Adult Captures				
Week Ending	BBM(AC)		BBM(BC)	
	Avg	Max	Avg	Max
6/4	0	0	0	0
6/11	0	0	0	0
6/18	0	0	0	0
6/25	0	0	0	0

% Diseased Fruit						
Week Ending	% Mummy Berries		% Anthracnose Berries		% Alternaria Berries	
	Avg	Max	Avg	Max	Avg	Max
6/18	0.002	0.2	0.05	1.4	0.06	1
6/25	0.002	0.1	0.090	2.2	0.072	1.2