

The Blueberry Bulletin

A Weekly Update to Growers

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- ❖ Visit the Blueberry Bulletin webpage at njaes.rutgers.edu/blueberry-bulletin
- ❖ The 2022 Commercial Blueberry Pest Control Recommendations for New Jersey is available on njaes.rutgers.edu
- ❖ Blueberry Twilight will be held May 24, 2023, 6pm at Atlantic Blueberry check your emails.

BLUEBERRY CULTURE

Dr. Gary C. Pavlis, Ph.D

Atlantic County Agriculture Agent

Harvest will begin soon but before that happens it is a perfect time to address the nutrition deficiencies that exist in the field. It must be understood that every essential nutrient affects plant growth and in the final analysis, yield. It is called the principal of limiting factors. Whatever nutrient is most deficient it is decreasing yield the most. When this deficiency is addressed, the next most deficient nutrient is decreasing yield the most. Our leaf analysis data shows that almost all the fields are deficient in Nitrogen, so whatever level of N you have been applying, it is not enough. Next, 88% of samples were low in Iron. This is a good time to use a foliar application of a chelated iron if you are one of the farms that came up short. Copper was short on 86% of the farms. Zinc was short on 68% of the farms and Magnesium on 46% of the farms. Again, a foliar application will address these problems. Note that on 70% of the farms, Boron was high. That means that many farms should omit Boron in 2023. The picture below shows the negative effect of low and high Boron on the blueberry leaves. In addition, the chart below shows the mode of application for the nutrients mentioned.

Boron – Normal range 30-50 ppm.



0ppm 15ppm 50ppm 60ppm 70 ppm 90pp

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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

PEST MANAGEMENT

Dr. Cesar Rodriguez-Saona, Extension Specialist in Blueberry Entomology, Rutgers University
Ms. Carrie Mansue, Senior Program Coordinator

Lepidoptera larvae – leafrollers, spongy moth: Activity of leafrollers slightly increased while numbers of spongy moth larvae decreased in the last week compared to the previous week of scouting.

Plum Curculio (PC): PC activity continues to increase and, if needed, this insect should be the main target of insecticide applications after bees are removed. Best post-bloom control options are Avaunt and Imidan.

Cranberry Fruitworm (CBFW) and Cherry Fruitworm (CFW) Traps: Last week, CFW trap counts increased in both Atlantic and Burlington Counties. CBFW activity also increased in Atlantic County.

Insect Sampling Count Summary

	LR/Tray	SM/Tray	PC/Tray	LR/Infested Berries	PC/Infested Berries
Average	0.06	0.02	0.15	0.22	0.67
High	0.4	0.4	1.8	1.9	6.4

LR = Leafrollers, SM = Spongy Moth, PC = Plum Curculio

	AC CFW	BC CFW	AC CBFW	BC CBFW
Average	7	10.75	0.2	0
High	11	17	2	0

AC = Atlantic County, BC = Burlington County, CFW = Cherry Fruitworm, CBFW = Cranberry Fruitworm