

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
- ❖ The Blueberry Bulletin will now be emailed to those who request it. We will no longer be mailing hard copies out. If you are not on our current list and would like to receive a copy, please call the office at (609) 625-0056.

BLUEBERRY CULTURE

Dr. Gary C. Pavlis, Ph.D

Atlantic County Agriculture Agent

As many growers are aware, researchers at Rutgers have been working on a project to help increase the soil health of New Jersey blueberry soils. To that end, the planting of a ground cover between the blueberry rows and the addition of mulch within the rows is recommended. Visits to blueberry fields over the past few weeks has shown that many growers are planting ground covers and applying mulch. The problem I have recently seen is due to mulch which has a high pH. If the mulch pH is not within the correct range for blueberries, the soil pH will be driven up with every irrigation or rain event. A farm I recently visited showed widespread Iron chlorosis. This occurs when the pH has increased out of the optimum range. I did an analysis of the mulch, and it had a pH of 5.8. This was the source of the iron problem. The take home message is that application of mulch is recommended however the pH of that mulch should be tested and adjusted before applying.



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

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 lepidoptera larvae continue to decrease across all 129 scouted fields throughout Atlantic and Burlington counties.

Plum Curculio (PC): PC activity has decreased in the last week compared to the previous week of scouting.

Aphids: Aphids counts have increased slightly this past week and this pest should be the main target of insecticide applications. Treatment is justified if greater than 10% of terminals are infested with live aphids. The neonicotinoids Assail, Actara, and Imidacloprid (e.g. Admire Pro) as well as the newer insecticides Sivanto, Movento, and Senstar provide good aphid control. Rotation of insecticides with different mode of action is a good practice to reduce the development of resistant populations.

Cranberry Fruitworm (CBFW) and Cherry Fruitworm (CFW) Traps: Last week, CBFW trap counts continue to increase in both Atlantic and Burlington counties. CFW trap counts are slightly lower compared to the previous week.

Spotted-wing Drosophila (SWD): The first SWD males were caught on May 18th in both counties. SWD should be the next target of insecticide applications once the fruit starts to show blue color.

Insect Sampling Count Summary

	LR/Tray	SM/Tray	PC/Tray	LR/infested Berries	PC/infested Berries
Average	0.003	0	0.001	0.003	0.004
High	0.1	0	0.1	0.4	0.2

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

	% LR Shoot Infestation	% Aphid Terminals
Average	0	9.97
High	0	50

	AC CFW	BC CFW	AC CBFW	BC CBFW
Average	5	11.5	0.5	3.75
High	16	24	3	15
Key: AC = Atlantic County, BC = Burlington County, CFW = Cherry Fruitworm, CBFW = Cranberry Fruitworm				

	SWD AC	SWD BC
Average	1.5	0.5
High	2	1
Key: SWD = Spotted-wing Drosophila		