

The Blueberry Bulletin

A Weekly Update to Growers

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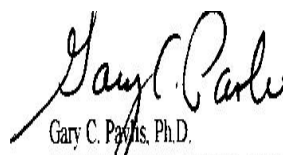
- ❖ Visit the Blueberry Bulletin webpage at njaes.rutgers.edu/blueberry-bulletin
- ❖ The 2022 Commercial Blueberry Pest Control Recommendations for New Jersey is available on njaes.rutgers.edu
- ❖ The Blueberry Bulletin will now be emailed to those who request it. We will no longer be mailing hard copies 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

Yellow Leaves: Numerous fields in the Hammonton area showed yellow leaves on the new growth. This has occurred almost entirely on 'Duke'. Yellow leaves at this time of year are normal because the plant is growing so fast that it causes Nitrogen deficiency in the new growth. When the growth slows during fruit maturation, the problem will fix itself. This is not the problem I am seeing this week. These leaves are light green/yellow but the veins are green. They are found only on the new growth. This is definitely iron deficiency. Years ago I would always say that this means the pH has climbed up past 5.5. For most varieties this is true, but for 'Duke', it may not be true.

It appears that the iron requirement for 'Duke' is higher than 'Bluecrop' and 'Elliott'. As a result it is possible to get iron deficiency when the pH is in the optimum range of 4.5 to 4.8. If you see this problem it is critical to fix it now. A simple foliar application of an iron chelate will green these plants up in a few days. If left unchecked, growth will be decreased and next year's flower bud development will also be decreased. This will have an effect on next year's yield.



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 continues to be low across all 131 scouted fields throughout Atlantic and Burlington counties. These insects should no longer be a concern.

Plum Curculio (PC): There was no PC activity last week and this insect should no longer be a concern.

Aphids: Aphid counts have declined slightly this past week. If you have not done so already, consider treatment if greater than 10% of terminals are infested with live aphids. Please see below for aphid control options in coordination with SWD management.

Cranberry Fruitworm (CBFW) and Cherry Fruitworm (CFW) Traps: Last week, CBFW trap counts increased in Atlantic county while CFW trap counts continue to decrease.

Spotted-wing Drosophila (SWD): Now that ‘Duke’ has started to show blue color, SWD should be the main target of insecticide applications in this variety. The strongest insecticides for SWD control are the pyrethroids (group 3A), Imidan and Malathion (group 1B), Lannate (group 1A), Delegate and Entrust (group 5), Exirel and Verdepryn (group 28), and the premix Cormoran (acetamiprid + novaluron) (group 4A+15) (Figure 1). Assail will give some control, but only on very low populations. Exirel will give some aphid control and is very good for SWD. Lannate will ‘suppress’ aphids, and is also a good SWD material.

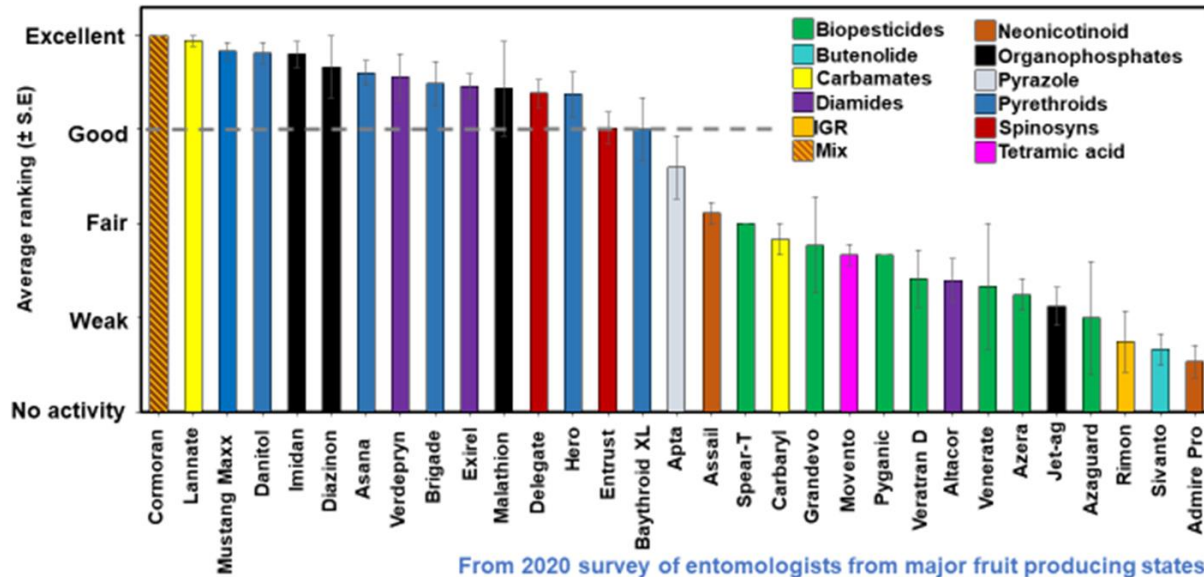


Figure 1. Ranking of insecticides based on efficacy against SWD.

If aphids have been controlled then switch to any of the highly effective SWD materials. If aphids have not been controlled, then use a product like Assail, Cormoran, Exirel, or Lannate.

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.

Insect Sampling Count Summary

	LR/Tray	PC/Tray	LR/Infested Fruit	PC Infested Fruit
Average	0.002	0	0.002	0
High	0.1	0	0.2	0

Key: LR = Leafrollers, PC = Plum Curculio

	% LR Shoot Infestation	% Aphid Terminals
Average	0	4.2
High	0	32

	AC CFW	BC CFW	AC CBFW	BC CBFW
Average	2.4	2	2.9	1
High	4	4	19	3

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

	AC SWD	BC SWD
Average	1	0
High	1	0

Key: SWD = Spotted-wing Drosophila