

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.

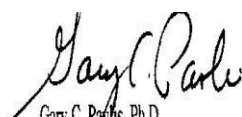
BLUEBERRY CULTURE

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

Blueberry harvest is progressing. Duke is in the second pick. With all this ripe fruit on the plants 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


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PEST MANAGEMENT

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

Aphids: Aphids are still being found. The average shoot infestation rate is 6.08% of new shoots infested with a high of 64%. If aphid populations are present, they still must be controlled, but while working around PHIs and SWD control.

Spotted-Wing Drosophila (SWD): Populations are increasing rapidly as measured by red sticky card counts. Any field that is colored or starting to color should have protection.

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 SWD outcompeting BBM.

Oriental Beetle (OB): Adults continue their emergence as they start to mate and lay eggs. Freshly hatched larvae should 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.

Putnam Scale: Scale crawlers are active and settling on the fruit. These are visible as tiny red dots with a light brown to gray center. Growers should take note if any berries have scale on them and which fields they come from. There are practically no scale insecticides that also control SWD. The one exception is Diazinon, but that can be only used once per season and has a 7 day PHI. Coverage is also key, so ground applications are required for adequate scale crawler control. Since this insect has 2 generations per year, it is wiser to note the fields that will need treatments and plan on treating those fields in early August when the second generation crawlers are active.

Life history. Scales feed on plant sap, decreasing plant vigor and fruit yield. Adult scales are protected from insecticide sprays by a waxy covering. These insects are common in older canes when not removed, and located mostly under loose bark. In New Jersey, the Putnam scale has two generations a year. It overwinters as second-instar nymphs under loose bark. Spring activity begins in early February. Eggs from the first generation are laid in late April, and immature “crawlers” begin to appear in mid-May. Peak crawler emergences occur in late May and early June. Peak crawler emergences for the second generation occur in early to mid-August.

Monitoring and management. Growers that have a scale problem need to treat post-harvest for the 2nd generation of crawlers (use Diazinon or Esteem). Crawlers can be monitored by wrapping black electricians’ tape covered by double-sided sticky tape around canes. Use a hand lens to see crawlers on the sticky tape. Sprays should coincide with crawler emergence.

Insect Sampling Count Summary

	LR infested fruit	PC infested fruit	Scale infested fruit	CBFW Infested fruit	CFW Infested Fruit
Average	0.003	0	0.05	0	0
High	0.4	0	2.4	0	0

Key: LR = Leafrollers, PC = Plum Curculio; CFW = Cherry Fruitworm, CBFW = Cranberry Fruitworm

	% LR Shoot Infestation	% Aphid Infested Terminals
Average	0	6.08
High	0	64

This week in traps:

	AC CFW	BC CFW	AC CBFW	BC CBFW
Average	0.66	0.5	36	2.75
High	4	2	24	6

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

	SWD AC	SWD BC	OB AC	OC BC	BBM AC	BBM BC
Average	6.91	2.2	324.3	148.27	0	0
High	71	14	2075	675	0	0

Key: SWD = Spotted-wing Drosophila; OB = Oriental Beetle; BBM = Blueberry Maggot