

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

Every weed in the blueberry field costs you a dollar. In my travels this week I couldn't help but notice the lack of weed controls in many, many fields. Now I am not the Rutgers Weed Specialist, that honor goes to Dr. Thierry Besancon, but even though the dollar per weed figure may not be exactly accurate, those weeds are costing grower's money. Weeds easily out-compete the blueberry plant for the fertilizer and water that is applied in the blueberry fields and those things cost money. Heavy weed pressure puts the blueberry plant under water stress,

robs the plant of nutrients, and due to decreased cane growth, will result in decreased yield. Heavy weed pressure at the end of the season will also decrease the fruit bud set this fall. When harvest winds down growers should assess how well their herbicide program worked and seek out Dr. Thierry for advice. Some of the fields I saw this week had blueberry plants totally overgrown by weeds. If yield is everything, then something must be done to alleviate the situation.



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

Spotted-Wing Drosophila (SWD): SWD numbers on traps continue to increase across the 154 fields scouted in both Atlantic and Burlington counties. This insect is the main target of insecticide sprays on all remaining harvestable varieties.

Aphids: Percent of aphid-infested terminals was on average 4.13%, with a high of 64%.

Blueberry Maggot (BBM): The first blueberry maggot fly was caught on July 05.

Oriental Beetle (OB): OB trap counts continue to increase.

Putnam Scale: The average infested berries was 0.04, with a high of 0.5; this is a decrease from the previous week.

Insect Sampling Count Summary

	LR Infested Fruit	PC Infested Fruit	Scale Infested Fruit	CBFW Infested Fruit	CFW Infested Fruit
Average	0	0	0.04	0	0
High	0	0	0.5	0	0

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

	% LR Shoot Infestation	% Aphid Infested Terminals
Average	0	4.13
High	0	64

This week in traps:

	SWD AC	SWD BC	OB AC	OB BC	BBM AC	BBM BC	SNLH AC	SNLH BC
Average	29.93	59.38	3006	2183	0.025	0	0.32	0.23
High	116	180	12150	6075	3	0	4	2

Key: SWD = Spotted-wing Drosophila; OB = Oriental Beetle; BBM = Blueberry Maggot; SNLH = Sharp-nosed Leafhopper