

# The Blueberry Bulletin

## *A Weekly Update to Growers*

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- ❖ Visit the Blueberry Bulletin webpage at [njaes.rutgers.edu/blueberry-bulletin](https://njaes.rutgers.edu/blueberry-bulletin)
- ❖ The 2022 Commercial Blueberry Pest Control Recommendations for New Jersey is available on [njaes.rutgers.edu](https://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**

**Diseased bushes:** Roguing of diseased bushes should be progressing. Remember to spray diseased bushes before removing them. It is necessary to kill the leafhoppers and it is more efficient, more economical, and wise from the standpoint of conservation of beneficial insects to spray individual bushes rather than entire fields.

Spraying entire blueberry fields with insecticide at this time will destroy many beneficial insects which are now abundant. Bumblebees and other wild bees are busily foraging in goldenrod, boneset, aster, gerardin and other wild flowers. The killing of these effective pollinators of blueberries is wanton and unwise. Parasites and predators of leafrollers, leafminers, aphids and scale are also numerous now in blueberries and their reduction by insecticides will make the problem of their control next year difficult.



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*

**Putnam Scale:** There are 2 generations per year of Putnam scale, and the insect is most sensitive to control when in the crawler stage. Eggs that are under the scale covering of adult females start to hatch in early August and nymphs emerge and spread out to new cane growth and leaves (this time of year). Peak nymph emergence and movement is usually around mid-August, and, therefore, when treatments should be applied if you had any fields with scale presence during June to early July, or the first generation. This week's trap counts average was 21 with a high of 53 crawlers per trap. Therefore, we should be approaching peak crawler emergence. If spray is needed, make sure to use a high volume spray, since you are trying to cover the entire cane and twig surface. Use as close to 100 gal/acre as you can. These insects do not 'fly into' residual insecticide. Rather they must be thoroughly covered when making the application, and the insecticide must reach into all the bark crevices where nymphs might be settled. Diazinon and Esteem are the products of choice.

**Sharp-nosed Leafhopper (SNLH):** Insecticides are timed for the second generation of adults, and rarely do Putnam scale and SNLH coincide so they can be treated at the same time. So while growers need to treat for scale soon, it is still too early for any second generation treatments targeting SNLH. We are averaging very low SNLH trap counts in both Atlantic and Burlington Counties.

### Insect Sampling Count Summary

|         | AC SWD | BC SWD | AC OB | BC OB | AC BBM | BC BBM | AC SNLH | BC SNLH | SCALE |
|---------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|--------|---------|---------|-------|
| AVERAGE | 133    | 164    | 20    | 21    | 0.03   | 0      | 0.01    | 0       | 21    |
| HIGH    | 293    | 411    | 170   | 79    | 3      | 0      | 1       | 0       | 53    |

Key: SWD = Spotted-wing Drosophila; OB = Oriental Beetle; BBM = Blueberry Maggot; SNLH = Sharp-nosed Leafhopper; BC = Burlington County; AC = Atlantic County