



The BLUEBERRY BULLETIN

A Weekly Update to Growers

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CULTURE

Dr. Gary C. Pavlis, Ph. D.

Atlantic County Agricultural Agent

Now that the harvest is over it is a great time to take some time and survey the blueberry fields to spot any problems that came up during the season. As I mentioned in an earlier newsletter, leaf analysis should be done this time of year and once completed, any deficiencies can be alleviated. This can be done with all nutrients except nitrogen. Applications of nitrogen after July 1 should be avoided. Recent research has indicated that late applications of N result in a higher incidence of stem blight, aphid growth, and decreased bud hardiness. Along with nutrition, growers should look how well the plant has done with new cane growth. Mature plantings should produce 3-5 good canes per bush each year. If that is not the case, something is wrong, i.e. grub damage, root

rot, improper pH, etc. I would also be scouting the fields for problems such as stunt and stem blight. Rouging stunted plants should always be a priority at this time as well as pruning out blighted canes.

Lastly, an evaluation of how well your weed program performed this year is very beneficial. Remember that weeds under the blueberry plants rob the plant of water and nutrients. Blueberries are very poor competitors for water and nutrients and anything that is not going to the plant is decreasing cane growth and ultimately yield. Next year's fruit buds are beginning to be initiated now so alleviating these problems will make for a bigger crop next year.

INSECTS

Dr. Cesar Rodriguez-Saona, Extension Specialist in Blueberry Entomology, Rutgers University

Mr. Dean Polk, IPM Agent – Fruit

Ms. Carrie Denson, IPM Program Associate – Fruit

Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD): Trap counts continue to increase, indicating higher populations. Only Elliott is now being picked, but treatments on that variety must remain tight in order to prevent infestation.

Blueberry Maggot (BBM): BBM trap counts are very low. Overall, populations are almost non-existent on most farms. There are exceptions where sprays have been stretched. One farm in Hammonton had up to 6 flies per trap, although spraying has stopped on this farm.

Sharpnosed Leafhopper (SNLH): Adult trap captures have increased slightly in Atlantic County, but we are still not ready to call this the second generation. Populations should increase over the next several weeks.

Blueberry Trap Counts

Atlantic County

Week Ending	Cranberry Fruitworm	Plum Curculio	Oriental Beetle	Spotted Wing Drosophila ♂	SNLH	BBM
5/6						
5/13	0.083					
5/20	0.28	2.4				
5/27	0.56	2.8				
6/3	0.24	0.33		0.74		
6/10	0.33	0	4.9	0.79		
6/17	0.50	0	730	1.65	0	0.1
6/24	0.04	0	2672	1.2	0.29	0.1
7/1	0.04	0	3767	1.84	0.13	0.3
7/8	0.0	0.33	3341	5.02	0.09	0.1
7/15	0.0	0.0	2093	7.35	0.77	0.1
7/22	0.0	0.0	1304	8.45	0.28	0.01
7/29		0.5	991	9.6	0.35	0.06

Burlington County

Week Ending	Cranberry Fruitworm	Plum Curculio	Oriental Beetle	Spotted Wing Drosophila ♂	SNLH	BBM
5/6						
5/13	0.33					
5/20	0.14	7				
5/27	0.43	12				
6/3	0.857	2		2.46		
6/10	0.18	0	1.08	1.83		
6/17	0.9	1.0	269	3.08		0
6/24	0.67	-	5460	3.04	1.59	0
7/1	0.36	0	2629	4.64	1.03	0
7/8	0.17	0	4224	5.53	1.07	0.23
7/15	0.0	0.0	3497	7.73	0.19	0.1
7/22	0.0	4.0	2038	4.8	0.16	0.1
7/29		0.0	470	18.3	0.16	0.13

Partial Key: SNLH – sharpnosed leafhopper, BBM – blueberry maggot

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If you have any comments about this newsletter, please make them in the space below and mail to:

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6260 Old Harding Highway, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

I would like to see an article on the following subjects: _____

I would like to comment on the following articles: _____

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