

The Blueberry Bulletin

A Weekly Update to Growers

March 12, 2018

Vol. 34, No. 1

At a Glance...

Blueberry Grower Twilight Meeting

Thursday, March 29, 2018, 5:30 p.m.
Variety Farms
548 Pleasant Mills Rd.
Hammonton, NJ 08037

Visit the Blueberry Bulletin webpage at
njaes.rutgers.edu/blueberry-bulletin

2018 Commercial Blueberry Pest Control
Recommendations for New Jersey
[njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.php?pid=
E265](http://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.php?pid=E265)

CULTURE

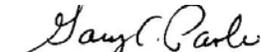
Dear Blueberry Grower:

As we begin the new season I hope you had a great winter. This is the first edition of the Blueberry Bulletin. Also, 'AT A GLANCE...' will continue, and is a summary of each week's information. I hope it is something you can and will use.

Any comments, suggestions, constructive criticism about *The Blueberry Bulletin* newsletter would be greatly appreciated. Also if you have any specific problems which you feel should be addressed, please let me know.

Help me to serve you better.

Here's hoping for all a very successful year.


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Atlantic County Agricultural Agent

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“Weed Management Recommendations for Blueberry Bushes damaged by Prowl H2O in 2017”

March 2018

Thierry E. Besancon, Ph.D., Weed Science Extension Specialist

Following the damage to the root system of blueberry bushes in plantations where Prowl H2O was applied last year, caution should be exercised this spring regarding your herbicide weed management program for these plants. Last fall, we observed the development of new fine hairy rootlets on damaged blueberry root mats. Preemergence herbicide that will be applied in the next few weeks should be carefully considered in order to prevent further damage to the recovering root system. This is especially critical since damage caused by Prowl H2O have never been previously reported on blueberry and our knowledge regarding the best approach to adopt for preemergence spring applications are limited. Below are some recommendations for weed management of blueberry bushes that were damaged with Prowl H2O last year.

- **DO NOT** apply preemergence herbicides past budbreak.
- **BASF is recommending against the use of Prowl H2O on caneberries and bushberries during the 2018 season.**
- Use preemergence herbicide that have good crop safety on blueberries. Surflan (oryzalin), Callisto (mesotrione), Chateau (flumioxazin), Kerb (pronamide), and Casoron (dichlobenil) can be applied to sand or loamy sand soil types with low organic matter content. These herbicides have low water solubility and moderate to strong soil adsorption, therefore preventing the risk of damage to the root system **WHEN** applied at the proper time. Other preemergence herbicides may only have limited crop safety in coarse textured soils with low organic matter content and, therefore, are not recommended for application to Prowl damaged blueberry bushes.
- Strict rate control of preemergence herbicides is necessary for limiting the risk of crop injury. Review the label of the herbicide you’re planning to apply and adjust the rate of herbicide with soil type and percentage of organic matter to maintain satisfying crop safety. Whenever possible, use the lowest rate adapted to your soil texture and organic matter content.
- Proper calibration of the sprayer (nozzle type, GPA, pressure, tractor speed) is essential for obtaining homogeneous spray pattern and delivering herbicide at a rate that will provide good weed control without damaging the crop.
- Approximately 6 to 8 weeks after application, most of the preemergence herbicides will have lost their activity in the soil. Postemergence herbicides should be applied during this period. Roundup (glyphosate) may be applied until 14 days before harvest. However, **EXTREME CARE** must be taken to avoid application on new shoot growth. Rely 280 (glufosinate) and Gramoxone (paraquat) are safer for use during the growing season

for foliar burndown. They are not translocated within the blueberry plant, so they cause no lasting injury, although they will burn off new growth. Aim (carfentrazone) also may be used postemergence in the crop, but it has a narrower spectrum of broadleaf control and no grass control. If grasses are present, include Poast (sethoxydim) or Select Max (clethodim) in the tank mix.

USDA Census of Agriculture

If you already sent in your census form, thank you! If you have not yet, please do so.

It is important to accurately account for the importance of New Jersey agriculture.

Anyone who did not get a census form, needs another form, or has any questions, please call 717-787-3904

Please note that individual responses to the Census of Agriculture are required to be kept confidential by law, and only aggregate data are used for reporting purposes. The reports produced are important in showing the economic impact and significance of the agriculture industry to New Jersey. The USDA Census of Agriculture is one of the most comprehensive means of accounting for your economic impacts.

*****New this year, you can complete the survey online at www.agcensus.usda.gov Growers who have already completed the survey online said this saved time.*****

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