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New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

The Blueberry Bulletin

A Weekly Update to Growers

August 2, 2018 Vol. 34, No. 11

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2018 Commercial Blueberry Pest Control Recommendations for New Jersey
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BLUEBERRY CULTURE

Gary C. Pavlis, Ph. D.
County Agricultural Agent

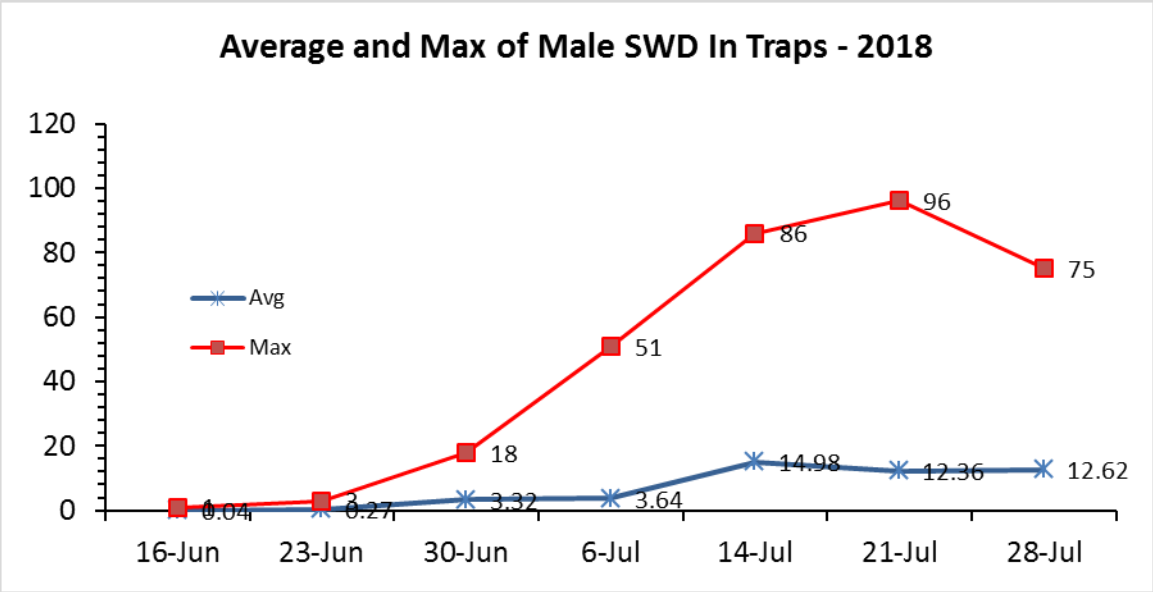
The harvest season has wrapped up with only a few growers doing last pickings of the 'Elliott' variety. Growers should be collecting leaf samples for nutrient analysis at this time. The season has been largely uneventful with a good crop. Some growers in the Hammonton area experienced poor pollination. Visits to these farms have shown the decreased fruit set. There may be some desire on the part of growers to react to this destruction by applying fertilizer. This would be unwise at this time. A late application of fertilizer will result is late season growth and increases the possibility of winter damage. In addition, it has been seen that in some cases such an application will increase the incidence of stem blight. The most prudent course for growers who have experienced this decreased fruit set is to try to limit any additional stress to the plants. For the most part this translates into timely watering. Next year's flowers will form in August through October and keeping the plants out of stress will allow this process to occur more efficiently.

BLUEBERRY INSECT

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): This is still the insect of concern on Elliott and other late varieties, where 7 day schedules still have to be maintained, especially under high populations. Last week we showed how the population spread over the season as measured by the percent of positive trap captures. As this happens, the population is also increasing in density as measured by the number of flies per trap. In Atlantic

County our average trap count was 15.2 with a high of 75. In Burlington County trap counts have decreased slightly, our average trap count was 8.4 per trap with a high of 39.



Blueberry Maggot (BBM): This week trap counts have increased in both counties. In Atlantic County average trap count was of 0.13 with a high of 6 BBM. In Burlington County average trap count was 0.49 with a high of 19. BBM populations often increase later in the season, but averages are often skewed by the higher populations emerging in areas no longer receiving insecticides for SWD. If growers are treating Elliott and BBM counts are over 1 per trap, be aware that while Delegate may be a great choice for SWD control, it is weaker against high populations of blueberry maggot.

Oriental Beetle (OB): This week's traps have decreased again. The Atlantic maximum per trap was 500, and the Burlington maximum was 6075 per trap. Any treatments applied during August or later are a waste of money.

Sharpnosed Leafhopper (SNLH): This week trap counts have slightly increased in both counties. While we expect an increase during the late season, this is only a slight variation and does not qualify for the start of the second generation. This is still several weeks away.

Summary of insect counts seen during the week of July 23rd – July 27th

	Leafroller % Inj. Shoots	Aphids % Inf. Shoots	CBFW % Inf. Fruit	Leafrollers % Fruit injury	PC % Fruit Injury	Scale % Fruit Injury
Average	0.244	5.7	0.004	0.033	0	0.024
High	10	20	0.1	0.7	0	0.3

Blueberry Trap Captures – Atlantic County

Week Ending	PC	CBFW	OB	SWD	BBM	SNLH	Putnam Scale
5/26	0.43	0.0					
6/2	0.43	0.0					
6/9	0.09	0.43	5.4				
6/16	0	0.015	31.75	0.02	0	0.072	
6/23	0.285	0.015	1436	0.176	0.024	0.104	
6/30	0.28	0	2583	2.78	0.012	0.1333	
7/7	0.428	0.016	3469	3.16	0.09	0.09	24.5
7/14	0.142	0.02	2827	8.235	0.011	0.253	1
7/21	0.142	0	827	10.42	0.101	0	0.714
7/28	0	0	96.43	15.21	0.125	0.02	0.29

Blueberry Trap Captures – Burlington County

Week Ending	PC	CBFW	OB	SWD	BBM	SNLH	Putnam Scale
5/26	1.67	0.18					
6/2	0.67	0.16					
6/9	0.0	0.1	0.6				
6/16	0	0.5	38.52	0.15	0	0	
6/23	0	0	1016	0.5	0	0	
6/30	0	0.25	2463	4.63	0	0.5517	
7/7	0	0.105	3741	4.8	0.25	0.143	0
7/14	0	0	1980	26.45	0	0.071	0.5
7/21	0	0	1002	15.5	0	0	0.333
7/28	0	0	485.5	8.35	0.49	0.07	0.67

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