

The Blueberry Bulletin

A Weekly Update to Growers

July 7, 2021

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- * Visit the Blueberry Bulletin webpage at www.njaes.rutgers.edu/blueberry-bulletin
- * The 2021 Commercial Blueberry Pest Control Recommendations for New Jersey is available on njaes.rutgers.edu

As we anticipate the arrival of our seasonal blueberry workers we want to share the most up-to-date information with you. The New Jersey Department of Health anticipates that about 50% of the incoming workers will not be vaccinated prior to their arrival in New Jersey. Workers who are in need of a COVID vaccine may have questions about the safety of the J&J vaccine, the most common vaccine available to farm workers in NJ. The CDC has released updated information [What do I need to know about Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine \(J&J/Janssen\) now? \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0706-covid-19-vaccine-janssen.html)

If you would like to determine if on-farm vaccinations are possible for your farm please email njfarmvax@njaes.rutgers.edu and a member of the Rutgers farmworker vaccination education program will connect you with your local Federally Qualified Health Center representative. For information on our states mega centers visit [COVID-19 Vaccine \(nj.gov\)](https://www.nj.gov/health/covid-19/vaccine/)

Updated information on COVID-19 and the vaccine can be found online at [Vaccine Information Resources for Farmers - Rutgers On-Farm Food Safety](https://njaes.rutgers.edu/vaccine-information/)

CULTURE

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

I see that the harvest of the 'Draper' variety has begun in Atlantic County. I have a research plot of this variety and was doing some harvesting of my own this week. This variety's yield is very good. The clusters are large and have uniform ripening. I saw very little disease evidence. The berries are firm, have an excellent texture, color, and flavor and are quite large. There was early concern that there would be a green fruit drop problem but that has not happened to any degree over that past three years and in my plots there was no drop at all this year. I believe the trick is raising the soil pH up to the mid 5's with a target of 5.5. This makes calcium more available and seems to eliminate any green drop problem. Until the pH is increased it may be necessary to apply weekly foliar applications of calcium. I have noted at past meetings and in this newsletter that many blueberry fields have a pH in the 3's and

low 4's. This is not 'Draper' ground unless the pH is brought up. Bottom line, this variety may be a good alternative to 'Bluecrop' due to its decreased susceptibility to anthracnose.

July 1 is my cut-off date for any applications of Nitrogen to the blueberry fields. After that date I feel there is the possibility of decreasing winter hardiness, increasing stem blight, and increasing aphid numbers. All other nutrient applications are alright to apply. Foliar applications of Iron, Copper, Zinc, can be made after harvest. In addition, if spring applications of lime to increase the soil pH or sulfur to decrease the pH were not applied, these applications can be made after the harvest has been completed.



INSECTS

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

Mr. Dean Polk, IPM Agent – Fruit

Ms. Carrie Mansue Denson, IPM Program Associate – Fruit

Blueberries:

Blueberry Maggot (BBM): No blueberry maggot adults were found last week. However, the first fly was caught on Tuesday July 6 in Hammonton. This is about 1 month later than “normal”. A second adult was captured on Wednesday, July 7. Both captures were in already harvested Duke fields where spraying had stopped. Positive traps were by the woods in the corners of the fields where it is difficult to cover by air. This means that growers who are exporting to Canada should be covering with a BBM effective insecticide within 5 days of that first capture.

Aphids: Aphids are still being found, but in decreasing numbers. The average shoot infestation is 6.07% with a high of 58% of shoots infested.

Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD): Populations have increased dramatically over the past week, as indicated by trap counts and population pressure. Larval infestation pressure has significantly increased. Reapplications are necessary if insecticide has been applied, only to be washed off in a thunderstorm. Make sure to target the bottom half of the bush as well as berries dropped on the ground, in addition to the tops of the plants. Adult flies are the most active during the early morning hours and at dusk. Therefore, applications of insecticide during the very early morning hours and twilight will be more effective than if applied during late morning to mid-day.

By the Numbers Summary:

% Leafroller/Surface Lep. Injury and Plum Curculio Injured Fruit		
Week Ending	% Leps injury to Berries	% PC injury to Berries

	Avg	Max	Avg	Max
5/14	0.13	2	0.68	7.8
5/21	0.13	1.8	0.80	9.8
5/28	0.013	0.5	0.13	3.7
6/4	0.002	0.2	0.008	0.3
6/11	0.002	0.3	0.005	0.4
6/18	0.001	0.2	0	0
6/25	0.001	0.1	0	0
7/2	0.006	0.2	0.001	0.1

% Cranberry Fruitworm, Cherry Fruitworm and Scale Injured Fruit						
Week Ending	% CBFW injury to Berries		% CFW injury to Berries		% Scale Injury	
	Avg	Max	Avg	Max	Avg	Max
6/4	0.009	0.1	0.005	0.1		
6/11	0.014	0.6	0.001	0.1	0.012	0.9
6/18	0.001	0.1	0.015	0.7	0.018	0.4
6/25	0.001	0.1	0.002	0.2	0.021	0.9
7/2	0.007	0.4	0.001	0.1	0.009	0.3

Spotted Wing Drosophila Males per Red Sticky Card				
Week Ending	SWD(AC)		SWD(BC)	
	Avg	Max	Avg	Max
6/4	1.5	8	0.375	3
6/11	1.84	9	1.77	1
6/18	3.4	25	2.86	6
6/25	5.3	42	2.87	9
7/2	7.03	98	7.36	22

Oriental Beetle Trap Counts				
Week Ending	OB(AC)		OB(BC)	
	Avg	Max	Avg	Max
6/4	3.9	32	0.25	1
6/11	185.72	2025	15.8	60
6/18	292	1350	285	2025
6/25	1767	11000	974	6075
7/2	2813	13000	1326	6075

Blueberry Maggot Adult Captures				
Week Ending	BBM(AC)		BBM(BC)	
	Avg	Max	Avg	Max
6/4	0	0	0	0
6/11	0	0	0	0
6/18	0	0	0	0

Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Boards of County Commissioners. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.

6/25	0	0	0	0
7/2	0	0	0	0

% Diseased Fruit						
Week Ending	% Mummy Berries		% Anthracnose Berries		% Alternaria Berries	
	Avg	Max	Avg	Max	Avg	Max
6/18	0.002	0.2	0.05	1.4	0.06	1
6/25	0.002	0.1	0.090	2.2	0.072	1.2
7/2	0.002	0.1	0.07	1.8	0.03	0.5