RUTGERS
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

The Blueberry Bulletin

A Weekly Update to Growers

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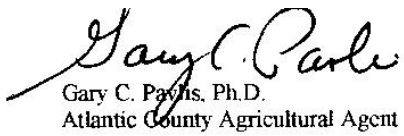
►Visit the Blueberry Bulletin webpage at www.njaes.rutgers.edu/blueberry-bulletin

► The Commercial Blueberry Pest Control Recommendations for 2021 are available at: https://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/

BLUEBERRY CULTURE

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

Every weed in the blueberry field costs you a dollar. In my travels this week I couldn't help but notice the lack of week controls in many, many fields. Now I am not the Rutgers Weed Specialist, that honor goes to Dr. Thierry Besancon, but even though the dollar per weed figure may not be exactly accurate, those weeds are costing grower's money. Weeds easily out-compete the blueberry plant for the fertilizer and water that is applied in the blueberry fields and those things cost money. Heavy weed pressure puts the blueberry plant under water stress, robs the plant of nutrients, and due to decreased cane growth, will result in decreased yield. Heavy weed pressure at the end of the season will also decrease the fruit bud set this fall. When harvest winds down growers should assess how well their herbicide program worked and seek out Dr. Thierry for advice. Some of the fields I saw this week had blueberry plants totally overgrown by weeds. If yield is everything, then something must be done to alleviate the situation.



BLUEBERRY PEST MANAGEMENT

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

Blueberry Maggot (BBM): Blueberry maggot adults started to sporadically appear in the Hammonton area last week. Counts have been very low, but one site recorded 3 flies per trap. Most trap captures have been from traps placed in Duke fields where spraying had recently stopped. Still, growers who are exporting to Canada should be covering with a BBM effective insecticide every 7 days. If you are no longer exporting, then your management would focus on SWD.

Aphids: Aphids are still being found but are a distant secondary consideration at this time.

Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD): Adult populations continue to provide significant pressure. As the adults continue to mate and lay eggs, higher populations of larvae will be present in dropped fruit and ultimately ripening fruit if not adequately. Stay on a 7 day schedule for any unpicked fruit. 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
7/9	0.007	0.1	0	0
Key: Leps = Lepidoptera larvae, PC = plum curculio, CBFW = cranberry fruitworm, CFW = cherry fruitworm, SWD = spotted-wing drosophila, OB = oriental beetle, BBM = blueberry maggot. AC = Atlantic County; BC = Burlington County.				

% 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
7/9	0.003	0.2	0	0	0.006	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
7/9	22.58	105	29.73	77

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
7/9	2214	11000	1806	10125

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

7/9	0.05		3		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
7/9	0	0	0.1	1.6	0.241	2.7