

# The Blueberry Bulletin

*A Weekly Update to Growers*

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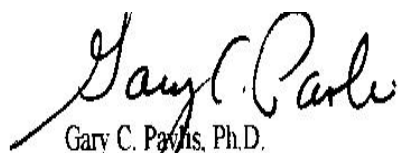
- ❖ Visit the Blueberry Bulletin webpage at [njaes.rutgers.edu/blueberry-bulletin](https://njaes.rutgers.edu/blueberry-bulletin)
- ❖ The 2022 Commercial Blueberry Pest Control Recommendations for New Jersey is available on [njaes.rutgers.edu](https://njaes.rutgers.edu)

## BLUEBERRY CULTURE

**Dr. Gary C. Pavlis, Ph.D**  
**Atlantic County Agriculture Agent**

I have been visiting blueberry fields this week and I have some thoughts:

1. Many fields are experiencing drought stress. We all know that it has been very dry. At this time of year fruit buds for next year are forming. Any stress at this time will decrease the number of buds which of course will decrease fruit yield next year. Irrigation now is critical.
2. Many fields are extremely weedy. This is a good time of year to assess how well your herbicide program has worked. If you have questions of what weed you have and how to control it contact Dr. Besancon at [thierry.besancon@rutgers.edu](mailto:thierry.besancon@rutgers.edu). Again, heavy weed numbers will stress the plants, especially in a drought year. This will result in decreased fruit buds and decreased cane growth.
3. Hopefully everyone has finished taking their leaf samples to evaluate their nutrient status. If not, it must be done ASAP. Remember that a soil test really only tells you pH, CEC, organic matter content. All important but not useful in determining fertilizer applications.
4. I see that many fields are now being disced or rototilled in the rows between the blueberry plants. This is a time honored practice that needs to stop. From a soil health standpoint it is killing your soil. We are conducting research now that will explain more fully but this practice is decreasing your soil organic matter, killing your beneficial micro-organisms, and decreasing the water content of the soil. In the future, mowing will be the accepted practice.
5. Even in this dry year I see many fields that have wet areas. Blueberry roots begin to die in 27 hours in standing water. Maintenance of a field's drainage ditches is critical to maintain good soil drainage. I have noticed that many of these ditches are choked with weeds and the water flow in negligible. This time of year is perfect to alleviate this situation.
6. Stem blight is very evident right now. Canes that are dead with brown leaves can be seen easily. Once this disease moves down to the plant's crown the plant will die. Removal of these canes should be done as soon as possible.

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

## PEST MANAGEMENT

**Dr. Cesar Rodriguez-Saona, Extension Specialist in Blueberry Entomology, Rutgers University**  
**Ms. Carrie Mansue, IPM Program Associate – Fruit**

**Scale Traps:** Scale traps have increased since last week. If you have not done so, it is time to treat. Diazinon and Esteem are the products of choice.

	Scale	
	Avg	Max
8/19	134	400
8/26	190	550

**Sharp-nosed Leafhopper (SNLH) traps:** Sharp-nosed leafhopper numbers are still low. It is still too early to think about second-generation SNLH treatments.

	SNLH AC		SNLH BC	
	Avg	Max	Avg	Max
6/18	0	0	0	0
6/25	0.02	1	0.76	10
7/2	0.22	5	0	0
7/9	0.456	7	2.33	13
7/15	0.22	2	0.09	1
7/22	0.01	1	0	0
7/29	0.135	2	0.07	2
8/6	0.05	1	1.83	12
8/12	0.07	2	4.79	28
8/19	0.12	5	0.017	1
8/26	0.57	3	0.5	1