



# The Blueberry Bulletin

## *A Weekly Update to Growers*

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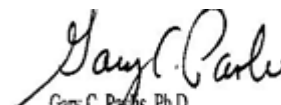
- ❖ Visit the Blueberry Bulletin webpage at [njaes.rutgers.edu/blueberry-bulletin](https://njaes.rutgers.edu/blueberry-bulletin)
- ❖ The 2024 Commercial Blueberry Pest Control Recommendations for New Jersey is available on <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/>

## BLUEBERRY CULTURE

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

Now that harvest is all but over the timing is right to first, submit a leaf sample to a lab to determine the nutrient status of the blueberry fields and second, to observe how this year's herbicide program performed. Determining both of these will greatly affect yield and harvest next year. It is also a good time to do a soil test to make sure the pH is within the proper range for highbush blueberries which is 4.5 to 4.8. Lime applications to raise the pH or sulfur applications to lower the pH can be made at any time. The pH levels of New Jersey fields are slowly getting lower and lower due to the yearly application of the ammonium form of nitrogen that is typically used. Soil pH values in the low 4's or high 3's result in inefficient uptake of nutrients. This can result in lower yields, soft fruit, poor fruit set, and poor cane growth.

It should once again be noted that those who are planting the new blueberry variety 'Draper' should not do so if your pH is low. This variety requires higher levels of calcium. Calcium is more available at a pH above 5.0. We have found the ideal pH for this variety is in the 5.5 vicinity.



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

## PEST MANAGEMENT

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

*Dr. Janine Spies, IPM Agent – Fruit*

*Carrie Mansue, Senior Program Coordinator – Fruit*

See the table below for trap data for the week of July 22<sup>nd</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> from Burlington and Atlantic Counties.

**Spotted-Wing Drosophila (SWD):** This is the only pest of concern for late-season varieties.

Week Ending	SWD		OB		BBM		SNLH	
	Avg	Max	Avg	Max	Avg	Max	Avg	Max
6/7	19.75	64	300.81	2025	0.037	2	0.0173	0.2
6/15	28.31	100	707	4050	0.20	15	0.18	3.00
6/21	33	164	2986	15525	0.04	4	0.18	4
6/29	71.72	300	5800	16875	0.05	6	0.10	3.00
7/6	38.82	405	3239	16000	0.02	2	0.02	1.00
7/13	23.36	117	2654	16000	0.08	2	0.04	1.00
7/19	54.46	390	688	8100	0.02	2	0	0
7/26	27.37	137	190.18	2025	0.01	1	0.09	3

SWD = Spotted-Wing Drosophila, OB = Oriental Beetle, BBM = Blueberry Maggot Fly, SNLH = Sharp-nosed Leafhopper

**Scale Traps:** Starting next week, more scale traps will be placed to inspect for crawlers for the start of the second generation. Information on treatment options will be provided in future articles.

**Aphids:** No further treatments are needed.