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THE BLUEBERRY BULLETIN

A Weekly Update to Growers



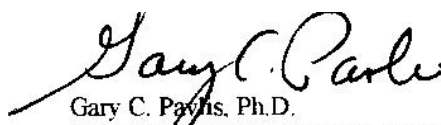
Visit the Blueberry Bulletin webpage: njaes.rutgers.edu/blueberry-bulletin
2024 Commercial Blueberry Pest Control Recommendations for New Jersey:
njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs

Blueberry Culture

Dr. Gary C. Pavlis, Atlantic County Agricultural Agent

Yellow Leaves: Numerous fields in the Hammonton area showed yellow leaves on the new growth. This has occurred almost entirely on 'Duke'. Yellow leaves at this time of year are normal because the plant is growing so fast that it causes Nitrogen deficiency in the new growth. When the growth slows during fruit maturation, the problem will fix itself. This is not the problem I am seeing this week. These leaves are light green/yellow, but the veins are green. They are found only on the new growth. This is definitely iron deficiency. Years ago, I would always say that this means the pH has climbed up past 5.5. For most varieties this is true, but for 'Duke', it may not be true.

It appears that the iron requirement for 'Duke' is higher than 'Bluecrop' and 'Elliott'. As a result, it is possible to get iron deficiency when the pH is in the optimum range of 4.5 to 4.8. If you see this problem, it is critical to fix it now. A simple foliar application of an iron chelate will green these plants up in a few days. If left unchecked, growth will be decreased, and next year's flower bud development will also be decreased. This will have an effect on next year's yield.


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

Ms. Carrie Mansue, IPM Sr. Program Coordinator – Fruit

IPM scouting was conducted last week across 81 fields in Burlington and Atlantic Counties. Monitoring this past week showed activity limited to berries and lower shoots—no additional activity was detected using beating tray methods.

Infested Fruit. No new fruit injury from leafrollers or plum curculio was reported.

Week Ending	Leafroller		Plum Curculio	
	AVG	HIGH	AVG	HIGH
5/10/25	0.13	0.07	0.97	4.3
5/17/25	0.15	0.8	0.95	4.8
5/22/25	0	0	0	0
5/31/25	0	0	0	0

% of Infestation on Lower Shoots for Leafroller and Aphids. Aphid counts remain high, with an average of 23% of terminal shoots infested and a maximum infestation rate of 84%. If treatments were applied before recent heavy rain events, a reapplication may be necessary for effective aphid control. Fields with 10% or more aphid infestation on lower shoots should be treated with an insecticide.

Week Ending	Leafroller		Aphids	
	AVG	HIGH	AVG	HIGH
5/17/25	0.11	4	4.6	22
5/22/25	0.09	2	26	66
5/31/25	0.02	2	23	84

Terrapin Scale. Crawler counts in scale traps have increased since last week, with an average of 89 and a peak of 250 crawlers per trap. We have now reached the peak activity period for scale crawlers. If treatment is needed, consider using Diazinon (7-day PHI); note that Diazinon may only be applied once per season.

Week Ending	Scale	
	AVG	HIGH
5/2/25	0	0
5/17/25	5.5	32
5/22/25	29.6	58
5/31/25	89	250



Cranberry Fruitworm and Cherry Fruitworm. Cherry fruitworm trap activity has declined, while cranberry fruitworm traps are beginning to show low levels of activity in Burlington County.

Week Ending	CBFW AC		CBFW BC		CFW AC		CFW BC	
	AVG	HIGH	AVG	HIGH	AVG	HIGH	AVG	HIGH
4/3/25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4/11/25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4/19/25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4/25/25	0	0	0	0	3.85	6	0.75	3
5/2/25	0	0	0	0	19.42	34	3.86	6
5/10/25	5.42	0	0	0	19.85	28	19.75	43
5/17/25	0	0	0	0	2.14	4	11.75	27
5/22/25	0	0	1	2	1.14	4	2	3
5/31/25	0	0	2.5	6	2.14	12	3	5
CBFW = Cranberry Fruitworm, CFW = Cherry Fruitworm; AC = Atlantic County, BC = Burlington County								

Traps for spotted-wing drosophila, sharp-nosed leafhopper, blueberry maggot, and oriental beetle were placed this past week and will continue to be deployed in the coming weeks.

Organic Practice Sprays. Scouting efforts this week are focused solely on aphids. Pyrethrin-based insecticides can provide suppression of aphid populations.