RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
Cooperative Extension
New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station

Cooperative Extension of Atlantic County
6260 Old Harding Highway
Mays Landing, NJ 08330-1533

njaes.rutgers.edu/extension
609-625-0056
Fax: 609-625-3646

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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

I see that the harvest of the 'Draper' variety is about to begin 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.

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

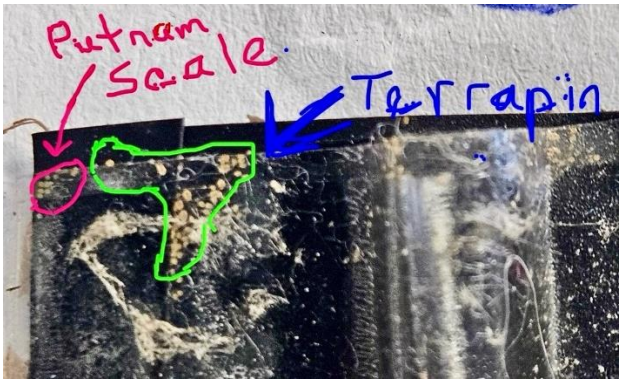
IPM scouting was conducted last week across 185 fields in Burlington and Atlantic Counties.
Infested Fruit. During scouting this past week, the only notable observation was a decrease in scale numbers compared to the previous week, likely due to berry harvesting.

Week Ending	Leafroller		Plum Curculio		Cranberry Fruitworm		Cherry Fruitworm		Scale	
	AVG	HIGH	AVG	HIGH	AVG	High	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						
6/6/25	0.001	0.2	0	0					0.010	0.2
6/13/25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.007	0.1	0.118	2.6
6/20/25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.16	2.2

% of Infestation on Lower Shoots for Leafrollers and Aphids. **A**phids are still being monitored, with a slight increase in their numbers; however, the primary focus of treatment remains spotted-wing drosophila (SWD).

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
6/6/25	0.013	2	16	72
6/13/25	0.01	2	14.18	62
6/20/25	0.05	8	13.9	82

Terrapin Scale. Crawler counts have decreased in all scale traps.



An example of a scale trap showing both Putnam and terrapin scale crawlers. Photo credit: Julie Schneider.

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
6/6/25	163	300
6/13/25	154	300
6/20/25	40.5	116

Cranberry Fruitworm (CBFW) and Cherry Fruitworm (CFW). Cherry fruitworm trap activity has declined; however, cranberry fruitworm traps continue to show low levels of activity in Burlington County this week.

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
6/6/25	0.28	1	0.25	1	1.85	6	2	1
6/13/25	0.167	1	0	0	1.67	6	0.25	1
6/20/26	0	0	2.5	6	0.57	2	0	0
CBFW = Cranberry Fruitworm, CFW = Cherry Fruitworm; AC = Atlantic County, BC = Burlington County								

Spotted-Wing Drosophila (SWD) and Oriental Beetle (OB). Spotted-wing drosophila (SWD) trap captures have increased and are expected to continue rising as the season progresses. SWD remains the primary target for insecticide applications. Oriental beetle trap counts have also increased this week.

Week Ending	SWD AC Traps		SWD BC Traps		OB AC Traps		OB BC Traps	
	AVG	HIGH	AVG	HIGH	AVG	HIGH	AVG	HIGH
6/6/25	8.5	29	3	9	7.8	29	0	0
6/13/25	21.51	45	32.6	86	240	1350	34	170
6/20/25	37.52	148	37.6	83	405	2025	555.4	4050
SWD = Spotted-Wing Drosophila, OB = Oriental Beetle; AC = Atlantic County, BC = Burlington County								

Blueberry Maggot (BBM) and Sharp-nosed Leafhopper (SNLH).

Week Ending	BBM AC Traps		BBM BC Traps		SNLH AC Traps		SNLH BC Traps	
	AVG	HIGH	AVG	HIGH	AVG	HIGH	AVG	HIGH
6/6/25	0	0	0	0	1	6	0.85	3
6/13/25	0.29	7	0.16	4	1.26	8	3.27	17
6/20/25	0	0	0.04	1	1.28	8	4	16
BBM = Blueberry Maggot, SNLH = Sharp-nosed Leafhopper; AC = Atlantic County, BC = Burlington County								

Organic Practice Sprays. Continue spraying for SWD.

Heat Wave and Insecticide Applications. Heat waves, such as the one occurring this week, may reduce the efficacy of insecticides by making them less toxic to target insects. High temperatures can accelerate the breakdown of chemical insecticides through thermal decomposition and increased volatilization, which lowers the amount of active ingredient available for pest control. To maximize insecticide effectiveness during heat waves, it is advisable to avoid applications during the hottest part of the day. Instead, apply insecticides during the cooler early morning or evening hours. These times also coincide with peak activity of SWD, improving the likelihood of successful control.