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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

Grower visits this week throughout Hammonton did not reveal any major problems. I saw my first blue 'Duke' on June 6th, but I still think that harvest is at least a week away, maybe 10 days. Overall crop size looks good but not extremely large. We experienced a mild winter in NJ and that usually translates into a big crop however I do not feel that is the case this year. The 'Bluecrop' does look a little heavier than the 'Duke' so the total may be larger than I think. As usual at this time of the year, I am seeing plants throughout NJ with new growth which is very light green and or reddish green. This is a nutrient deficiency, usually nitrogen, but it is normal. The plants are rapidly growing and doing so faster than the nutrients can be taken up. This will clear up in a few weeks as growth slows down.

Last applications of N-P-K should be going on over the next two or three weeks. After July 1 I do not recommend applying nitrogen. Our research at Rutgers shows that late applications of nitrogen increase stem blight, increase aphid numbers, and decrease winter bud hardiness.

Lastly, this is an excellent time to scout your fields for any problems that may exist. After harvest begins most growers are too busy to look for problems so now is the time to ID problems and address them. If you need any help do not hesitate to call me.

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 167 fields in Burlington and Atlantic Counties, with a focus on berries and lower shoots. Beating tray counts will no longer be included in future reports.

Infested Fruit. Minimal fruit injury from leafrollers was observed, and no new damage from plum curculio was detected. During scouting this past week, scale insects were noted on some berries, though infestations remain very low.

Week Ending	Leafroller		Plum Curculio		Scale	
	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

% of Infestation on Lower Shoots for Leafroller and Aphids. Aphid counts have slightly decreased since the previous scouting report, with an average of 16% of terminal shoots infested and a maximum infestation rate of 72%. If insecticide applications were made prior to recent heavy rain events, reapplication may be necessary for effective 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
6/6/25	0.013	2	16	72

Terrapin Scale. Crawler counts in scale traps have increased slightly since last week, averaging 163 and reaching a high of 300 per trap. If you have not yet applied a treatment, do so before insecticide applications targeting SWD begin. Refer to last week's bulletin for specific treatment recommendations.

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

Cranberry Fruitworm (CBFW) and Cherry Fruitworm (CFW). Cherry fruitworm trap activity has declined, while cranberry fruitworm traps continue to show low levels of activity in both counties.

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
CBFW = Cranberry Fruitworm, CFW = Cherry Fruitworm; AC = Atlantic County, BC = Burlington County								

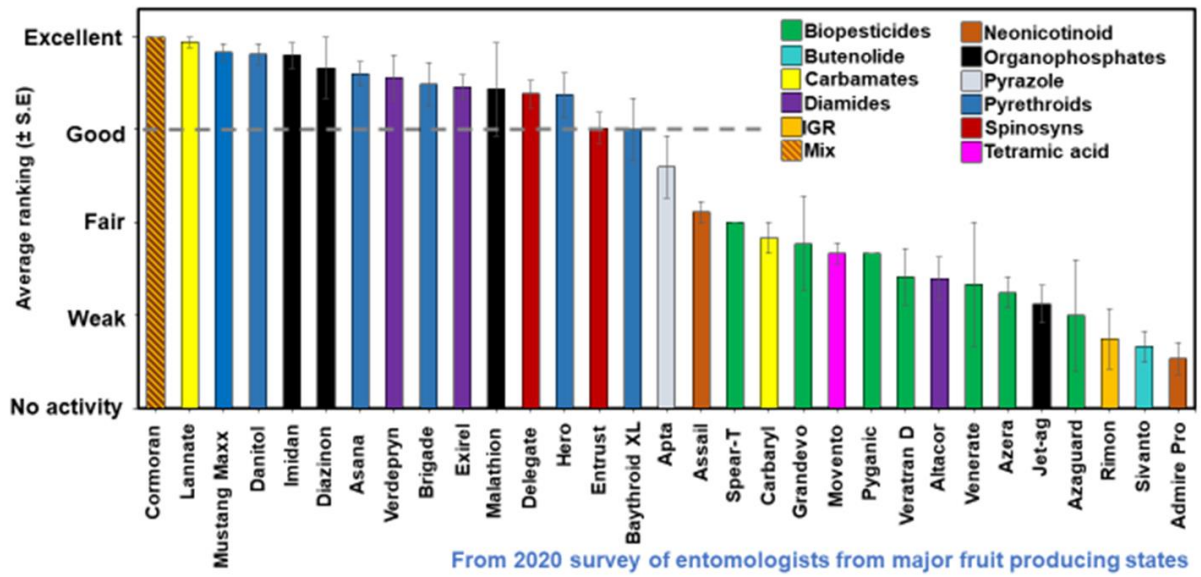
Spotted-Wing Drosophila (SWD) and Oriental Beetle (OB). Spotted-wing drosophila (SWD) has been captured in traps placed in both Atlantic and Burlington Counties. As SWD populations are expected to increase as the season progresses, now is the time to begin your spray program. Oriental beetle (OB) has been captured in low numbers in Atlantic County, with no OB captures reported in Burlington County.

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
SWD = Spotted-Wing Drosophila, OB = Oriental Beetle; AC = Atlantic County, BC = Burlington County								

Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD). Male SWD captures were first reported last week, during the first week of June. Ripe fruit is currently in the field, with harvesting of Duke beginning this week. The weather has fluctuated between hot, dry periods and bouts of rain, which complicates SWD management. Recent insecticide applications may be washed off by rainfall, leaving fruit vulnerable to infestation. It is critical to maintain fresh insecticide coverage on the fruit during this time. A standard 7-day spray interval may not be sufficient if heavy rains occur shortly after application. Supplemental treatments should be considered when rain washes off existing sprays. Additionally, rotating insecticide chemistries as much as possible helps reduce resistance risk. The most effective insecticides for SWD control include: Pyrethroids (Group 3A): Mustang Maxx, Danitol, Brigade, Hero; Organophosphates (Group 1B): Imidan, Malathion; Carbamates (Group 1A): Lannate; Spinosyns (Group 5): Delegate, Entrust; Diamides (Group 28): Exirel, Verdepryn. See Figure 1 for a summary of product efficacy. The premix Cormoran (Assail [acetamiprid] + Rimon [novaluron], Group 4A + 15) has shown promise in controlling SWD, though current data are limited, and its effectiveness should be interpreted with caution.

Additional notes: Assail (Group 4A) provides limited SWD control and should only be used when populations are low. It may be a suitable option if aphids are also present. Exirel offers strong efficacy against SWD and also provides aphid control. Lannate can suppress aphids while offering effective SWD control.

Please see our YouTube video demonstrating the **Salt Flotation Method to Monitor SWD Larvae** at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZwqnLN-Tg4&t=1s



The below table was previously posted to the Blueberry Bulletin by Dean Polk and shared from https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/rainfast_characteristics_of_insecticides_on_fruit by Dr. John Wise at Michigan State University. Review the below information on wash-off potential of insecticide residue after a rain event to determine if reapplication is needed.

Blueberry insecticide precipitation wash-off re-application decision chart. Expected spotted wing drosophila control in blueberries, based on each compound's inherent toxicity to SWD, maximum residual and wash-off potential from rainfall.

Insecticides	Rainfall = 0.5 inch		Rainfall = 1.0 inch		Rainfall = 2.0 inch	
	*1 day	*7 days	*1 day	*7 days	*1 day	*7 days
Imidan	Sufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Sufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue
Mustang Maxx	Sufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Sufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue
Lannate	Sufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Sufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue
Malathion	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue

Delegate	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue
Assail	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue

* Number of days after insecticide application that the precipitation event occurred. ***Insufficient insecticide residue*** = Insufficient insecticide residue remains to provide significant activity on the target pest, and thus an immediate re-application is recommended. ***Sufficient insecticide residue*** = Sufficient insecticide residue remaining to provide significant activity on the target pest, although residual activity may be reduced.

Blueberry Maggot (BBM) and Sharp-nosed Leafhopper (SNLH). Traps were set and checked last week in both Atlantic and Burlington Counties. All traps showed no or minimal insect activity, with SNLH traps in particular remaining largely inactive.

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
BBM = Blueberry Maggot, SNLH = Sharp-nosed Leafhopper; AC = Atlantic County, BC = Burlington County								

Organic Practice Sprays. Scouting efforts moving forward will focus on SWD. A rotational spray program using Entrust and Grandevo or Entrust and Pyganic is among the more effective options. Refer to the graph below (Figure 2) for OMRI-approved products known to provide control of SWD.

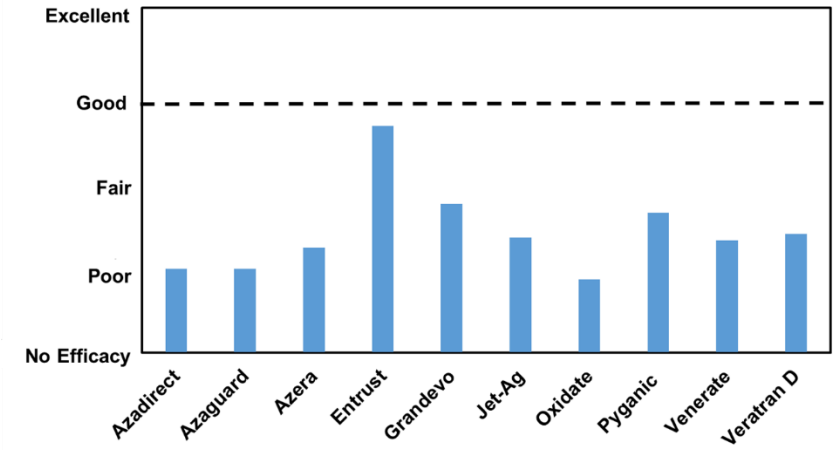


Figure 2. Ranking of organic insecticides based on efficacy against SWD.