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THE BLUEBERRY BULLETIN

A Weekly Update to Growers

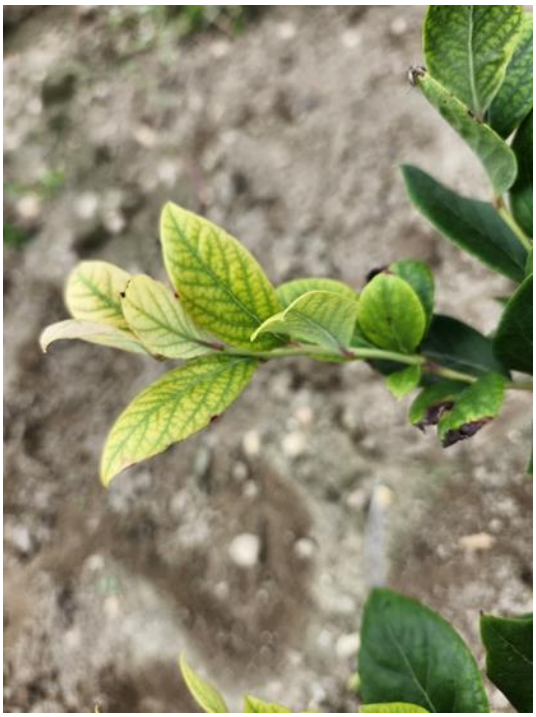
Visit the Blueberry Bulletin webpage: extension.rutgers.edu/blueberry-bulletin
2024 Commercial Blueberry Pest Control Recommendations for New Jersey: njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs

Blueberry Culture

Dr. Gary C. Pavlis, Atlantic County Agricultural Agent

Now that harvest is over it is important to stay on top of any problems in the field. Stressed blueberry plants at this time of year will result in a decrease in fruit bud formation which determines next year's crop time and stress will also decrease the plants' winter hardiness. Drought, weed pressure, nutrition deficiency, disease and insects all can stress the plants at this time. We have been getting adequate rainfall but if the weather turns dry over the next month it will be important to provide irrigation.

Visits to grower fields this week have shown that there are some nutrient deficiencies popping up. The most obvious is iron chlorosis (pictured below on the bottom left). This normally occurs when the pH of the soil is too high. The symptoms are that the youngest leaves will turn yellow while the leaf veins are still green. As the deficiency worsens, the entire leaf turns yellow. The easy fix for this is a foliar application of iron chelate. Since the deficiency occurs on the youngest leaves it is important to remedy it because this is also where the fruit buds are forming. Deficiency results in less fruit bud formation.



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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

See the table below for trap data collected during the week of August 10–16 from Burlington and Atlantic Counties (trap counts only).

Trap captures of spotted-wing drosophila (SWD) and oriental beetle (OB) declined overall. Sharp-nosed leafhopper (SNLH) activity increased in Atlantic County, although trap counts remain low. Monitoring will continue for second-generation SNLH adults to determine the appropriate timing of control measures.

Spotted-Wing Drosophila (SWD) and Oriental Beetle (OB).

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
6/27/25	13.5	34	27.4	67	681	2025	134.9	450
7/4/25	21.2	73	41.1	64	541	2025	331.6	1575
7/11/25	46	155	48	103	322	1650	256	1238
7/18/25	42.42	127	39.8	87	133	675	174	900
7/26/25	51.76	238	34.9	100	164.8	675	64.4	200
8/2/25	66.5	233	43	78	83	675	15	28
8/8/25	49	265	70	328	14	100	9.4	24
8/15/25	45	343	20.2	40	5.3	25	4.75	13
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
6/27/25	0.05	4	0	0	0.25	1	0.28	2
7/4/25	0	0	0	0	0.81	13	1.17	4
7/11/25	0	0	0	0	0.35	2	0.68	5
7/18/25	0	0	0	0	0.56	8	0.38	2
7/26/25	0	0	0.04	1	0.3	4	0	0
8/2/25	0.001	1	0	0	0.41	7	0	0
8/8/25	0	0	0	0	0.25	4	0.07	1
8/15/25	0	0	0	0	0.5	8	0	0
BBM = Blueberry Maggot, SNLH = Sharp-nosed Leafhopper; AC = Atlantic County, BC = Burlington County								

Organic Practice Sprays. No sprays are recommended at this time. The next target insect will be sharp-nosed leafhopper.