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THE BLUEBERRY BULLETIN

A Weekly Update to Growers



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2024 Commercial Blueberry Pest Control Recommendations for New Jersey:
njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs

Blueberry Culture

Dr. Gary C. Pavlis, Atlantic County Agricultural Agent

At the post-harvest blueberry grower meeting yesterday some interesting subjects were brought up. Numerous growers stated that despite the excellent pollination period we experienced during bloom growers noticed that fruit size was not exceptional. It is known that if the pollination period allows multiple bee visits to each flower this will result in a higher seed number and so a larger berry. But what happened during fruit ripening? We experienced very hot weather. When the temperature gets that high the blueberry plant basically shuts down. As a result, fruit sizing takes a back seat to water uptake and transpiration from the leaves.

It was also mentioned that there appears to be a flush of growth occurring now. September is not usually a time when blueberry bushes put on a flush of growth. I believe the reason is again the hot weather we experienced earlier in the summer. Basically, unused fertilizer is being used by the plant now. Is this a problem? It could be if the weather turns very cold in late November or early December. Our weather patterns have not shown extreme cold early, so I don't think we need to be too worried but keep your fingers crossed.


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



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

Below are the trap data for August 24–30 in Burlington and Atlantic Counties.

Scale Traps. Terrapin and Putnam scale crawler activity was minimal, and treatment is not recommended at this time.

	Terrapin Counts		Putnam Counts	
	Avg	High	Avg	High
8/20	6	15	11	41
8/30	2	5	6	13

Sharp-nosed Leafhopper (SNLH). Average SNLH trap counts increased compared to previous weeks; however, overall insect pest activity remains low, and treatment is not recommended.

	Atlantic County		Burlington County	
	Avg	High	Avg	High
8/8	0.25	4	0.07	1
8/15	0.5	8	0	0
8/20	0.57	11	0	0
8/30	2	5	0.25	1

Organic Practice Sprays. No spray is recommended at this time. The next application should target sharp-nosed leafhopper.