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# THE BLUEBERRY BULLETIN

## *A Weekly Update to Growers*



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

**Save the Date:** Blueberry Twilight Meeting, Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Whalen Farms, 6pm


**Save the Date:** Blueberry Twilight Meeting, Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, Research Center 6pm

## Blueberry Culture

*Dr. Gary C. Pavlis, Atlantic County Agricultural Agent*

Blueberry bloom is a time when I recommend the start of fertilization of the blueberry plants. The severe frost over the last few nights has damaged the bloom in many fields and as a result has had a negative effect on the potential yield this summer. We will not know the extent of the damage until harvest begins however I know growers are asking if a fertilizer application is still needed if it appears the yield will be substantially decreased. It should be realized that when an application of Nitrogen, Potassium and Phosphorus is applied at this time, we are largely supplying fertilizer for next year's crop. These nutrients are stored in the plant and growth is occurring this year based on the application growers made last year. So, the answer to the question, should I still apply the 10-10-10, is yes.

On the other hand, if growers see a micro-nutrient deficiency such as Iron, or Boron, an application is warranted immediately. A deficiency of these nutrients will affect this year's growth.

  
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*

## Insect Pressure

Scouting activities were conducted last week across 137 fields in Burlington and Atlantic Counties. Field evaluations focused on the presence of leafrollers, spongy moths, plum curculio, and thrips. All target pests were detected; however, population levels remain low at this time (Table 1). Due to the ongoing pollination period, insecticide applications are not recommended at this stage.

Table 1. IPM Data

|      | Leafrollers |      | Spongy Moth |      | Plum Curculio |      | Thrips |      |
|------|-------------|------|-------------|------|---------------|------|--------|------|
|      | Avg         | High | Avg         | High | Avg           | High | Avg    | High |
| 4/17 | 0.0649      | 2    | 0.0001      | 0.1  | 0.0686        | 2.5  | 0.5547 | 9    |

## Disease Pressure

This week's observations indicate minimal presence of Phomopsis in the fields. Recommended treatments for Phomopsis should have already been applied. Moving forward, management efforts should focus on anthracnose spray applications. For specific spray recommendations and timing, refer to Dr. Peter Oudemans' blueberry bulletin posted on March 17

<https://extension.rutgers.edu/sites/default/files/2026-03/bb-v42n01.pdf>