

March 31, 2026

Vol. 42, Issue #3

# 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)

## 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 Pest	dormant	budbreak- prebloom	bloom	1 <sup>st</sup> post - pollination	fruit maturation	post- harvest
Scale	■					
Cranberry weevil		■				
Leafrollers		■	■	■	■	■
Spanworms		■	■	■		
Spongy moth		■	■	■		
Cranberry Fruitworm				■	■	
Thrips			■	■	■	
Gall midge			■	■		
Leafminers				■	■	
Pium curculio			■	■	■	
Aphids				■	■	■
Leafhoppers				■	■	■
Blueberry maggot					■	■
Oriental beetle					■	■
Spotted-wing drosophila				■	■	■
Japanese beetle					■	■
Bud mite						■



The table above shows the activity periods of the major insect pests of blueberries in New Jersey. Bars indicate the periods when scouting (gray) and management (black) of each pest are most important.

### **Cranberry Weevil**

This should be the insect pest of concern over the next two weeks.

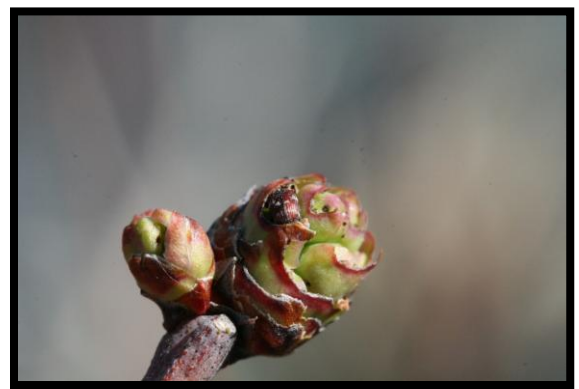
*Life cycle:* Adults typically move from wooded areas, where they overwinter, into blueberry fields. However, if fields are left unmanaged, some adults may also overwinter within them. These beetles are small (about 1/16 inch long), dark reddish-brown, with a few whitish bands on their wings and a distinctive long snout (see Picture 1). Females lay eggs individually through feeding holes in flower buds. Upon hatching, larvae feed inside the buds until pupation, which occurs within the infested flowers. Adults emerge by late May. Infested flowers develop a purplish hue, fail to open, and eventually drop to the ground.

*Scouting and Control:* To monitor adults, use a beating tray placed under each bush and tap the branches to dislodge weevils. Repeat on both sides of the bush to obtain an accurate count per bush. Because weevils are most abundant near wooded areas where they overwinter, sampling should focus on edge rows adjacent to the woods. Adults are most active on sunny days. Monitor at least 10 bushes per sample site. Sprays should be targeted to these “hot spots” along edge rows.

The treatment threshold is 5 weevils per bush or 20% of blossom clusters showing feeding injury (i.e., at least one feeding puncture per five clusters) (see Picture 2). For cranberry weevil control, recommended insecticides include Asana, Avaunt, Imidan, and Mustang Maxx. Organic options include Venerate and Pyganic.



Picture 1: Cranberry Weevil on a Blueberry Flower Bud (Photo by D. Polk)



Picture 2: Cranberry Weevil Feeding Injury to Buds (Photo by D. Polk)