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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

Pest Management

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Insects

Scouting was conducted last week across 187 commercial and organic blueberry fields in Burlington and Atlantic Counties. Field evaluations focused primarily on fruit inspections for pest injury and assessments of aphid infestations on new vegetative growth.

Monitoring of developing fruit indicated a decline in feeding and oviposition injury associated with leafrollers and plum curculio (Table 1).

This week, the IPM monitoring team began detecting infestations of cranberry fruitworm and cherry fruitworm in fruit. Although infestation levels remain low, activity has been observed and should continue to be monitored closely (Table 2).

Table 1. Fruit Monitoring Data

	% Leafroller Berry Infestation		% Plum Curculio Berry Infestation	
	Avg	High	Avg	High
5/9	0.125	1	0.235	2.6
5/16	0.22	1.5	0.67	6.5
5/23	0.04	0.9	0.125	5.8
5/29	0.03	0.8	0.01	0.6
6/6	0.006	0.2	0.003	0.3
6/12	0.002	0.2	0	0
6/20	.002	0.2	0	0

Table 2. Fruit Monitoring Data

	% Cranberry Fruitworm Berry Infestation		% Cherry Fruitworm Berry Infestation	
	Avg	High	Avg	High
6/20	0.003	0.3	0.004	0.2

Aphids

Aphid populations increased compared with the previous week, although average colony sizes remained low, averaging approximately 1–5 aphids per shoot (Table 3).

Table 3: Aphid Infestation on New Terminals

	Aphids % Terminal Infestation	
	Avg	High
5/23	1.5 A	14
5/29	2.83 A	38
6/6	2.189 A	30
6/12	1.9 A	26
6/20	2.9 A	54
Aphid Colony Size: A: 1-5, B: 6-10, C: 11-15, D: >16		

Trap Monitoring

This week, spotted-wing drosophila trap captures increased and remain the primary driver of insecticide spray decisions (Table 4).

Table 4. Spotted-Wing Drosophila and Blueberry Maggot traps

	Spotted-Wing Drosophila				**Blueberry Maggot**			
	Atlantic County		Burlington County		Atlantic County		Burlington County	
	Avg	High	Avg	High	Avg	High	Avg	High

6/6	8.99	35	2.86	7	0.03	1	0	0
6/12	9.9	46	3.7	25	0	0	0	0
6/20	10.24	48	8.22	35	0	0	0	0

Table 5. Sharp-nosed Leafhopper and Oriental Beetle traps

	Sharp-nosed Leafhopper				**Oriental Beetle**			
	Atlantic County		Burlington County		Atlantic County		Burlington County	
	Avg	High	Avg	High	Avg	High	Avg	High
6/6	1.42	16	1.25	7	5.78	35	2.57	14
6/12	0.56	12	4.8	46	62	340	47	170
6/20	0.88	6	1.44	12	411	2025	403	2025

Cranberry fruitworm and cherry fruitworm traps were monitored last week. Trap captures indicated continued cherry fruitworm activity in Atlantic County, while cranberry fruitworm activity remained low (Table 6).

When selecting insecticide applications, spotted-wing drosophila and blueberry maggot should remain the primary management targets at this stage of the season.
However, growers should also consider products that provide effective control of cranberry fruitworm and cherry fruitworm, particularly in fields where activity has been detected, to ensure comprehensive protection of the crop.

Table 6. Cranberry/Cherry Fruitworm Trap Data

	Cranberry Fruitworm (AC)		Cherry Fruitworm (AC)		Cranberry Fruitworm (BC)		Cherry Fruitworm (BC)	
	Avg	High	Avg	High	Avg	High	Avg	High
5/1	0	0	2.5	5	0	0	3.5	7
5/9	0	0	4.4	6	0	0	6.25	10
5/16	0	0	7.7	11	0	0	9	15
5/23	0.14	1	5.14	15	0.25	1	16	29
5/29	0.14	1	1	3	0	0	1.5	6
6/6	3.57	20	1.43	5	0	0	0.75	2
6/12	0	0	3.4	7	1.25	3	0.2	1
6/20	0	0	0.57	2	0	0	0	0
AC: Atlantic County, BC: Burlington County								

Scales

Crawler activity for both terrapin scale and Putnam scale decreased slightly compared with the previous week (Table 7).

Despite the decline in crawler activity, fruit infestation by scale insects increased slightly from the previous week (Table 8).

Table 7. Scale Traps

	Putnam Scale		Terrapin Scale	
	Avg	High	Avg	High
5/23	36.85	230	1.8	8
5/29	65.17	352	21.2	41
6/6	136.25	402	75.25	84
6/12	164	639	96	202
6/20	102	288	85	167

Table 8. Scale infestation on fruit

	Scale % infestation on fruit	
	Avg	High
6/12	0.13	2.1
6/20	0.19	5.7

Diseases

The IPM team has observed anthracnose in some 'Duke' plantings, as well as symptoms of mummy berry and Alternaria fruit rot. The incidence of Alternaria is likely associated with fruit injuries caused by mechanical harvesting activities.

Growers should continue to monitor fields for disease development and consult the current Rutgers Blueberry Commercial Guide for fungicide recommendations or

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

	% Mummy Berry Infested Fruit		% Anthracnose Infested Fruit		% Alternaria Infested Fruit	
	Avg	High	Avg	High	Avg	High
6/20	0.03	0.9	0.06	2.5	0.004	0.7