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THE BLUEBERRY BULLETIN

A Weekly Update to Growers

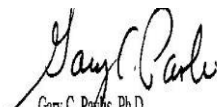


Visit the Blueberry Bulletin webpage: extension.rutgers.edu/blueberry-bulletin
2026 Commercial Blueberry Pest Control Recommendations for New Jersey:
<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.php?pid=E265>

Blueberry Culture

Dr. Gary C. Pavlis, Atlantic County Agricultural Agent

I visited a few newly planted fields this week and once again I must stress the point that late applications of nitrogen, meaning after July 1, can be disastrous. This is especially true on Duke. I visited a farm that was planted last year and was given a dose of nitrogen in late July and early August. This year the field has developed stem blight on 50% of the plants. Some will live; most will not. I believe Duke is especially sensitive to late applications of nitrogen. Bottom line; don't give Duke a late application of nitrogen. I also visited a second young field that was planted this spring. The entire field looks poor. Leaves are reddish yellow, growth is poor, and there were berries on the plants. I did a pH of the field, and it was in the high 5's. First, why do a planting if the pH is not optimum? Growth will definitely be poor. Secondly, why leave fruit on one-year plants, again this retards growth. The solution here was to add sulfur ASAP and strip all the berries off, also ASAP.


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

Insects

Scouting was conducted last week across 119 conventional and organic blueberry fields in Burlington and Atlantic Counties.

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

This week, the IPM monitoring team observed signs of cherry fruitworm infestation in developing fruit. Although infestation levels remain low (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	0.002	0.2	0	0
6/27	0.001	0.2	0	0
7/3	0.005	0.3	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
6/27	0	0	0.002	0.2
7/3	0.001	0.1	0.001	0.1

Aphids: Aphid populations declined compared with the previous week, with colony sizes remaining low at an average of 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
6/27	3.07 A	56
7/3	2.6 A	48
Aphid Colony Size: A: 1-5, B: 6-10, C: 11-15, D: >16		

Trap Monitoring

Spotted-wing drosophila & Blueberry maggot: Trap captures increased in both Atlantic and Burlington Counties for spotted-wing drosophila. An increase in blueberry maggot trap captures were observed in Atlantic County. For fields that are still being harvested, spotted-wing drosophila remains the primary target for insecticide applications (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
6/27	6.96	78	3.6	18	0	0	0	0
7/3	29.78	273	50.9	81	0.33	27	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
6/27	0.77	9	0.37	2	243	2025	458	2025
7/3	1.5	15	0.55	2	466.7	2025	182.7	510



The weather has alternated between hot/dry and periods of rain, making it challenging to apply insecticides for spotted-wing drosophila control. There is a concern that recently applied insecticide applications will wash off making the fruit susceptible to spotted-wing drosophila infestation. It is important during this time to keep fresh insecticide on the fruit. A 7-day program may not be sufficient if significant rains fall just after a spray. Consider supplemental applications if rains wash off the previous cover, and rotate chemistries as much as possible. The below table (Table 6) was previously posted to the Blueberry Bulletin by Dean Polk and shared from [an article](#) by Dr. John Wise at Michigan State University. Review the below information on wash-off potential of insecticide residue after a rain event to determine if reapplication is needed.

Table 6. Blueberry insecticide precipitation wash-off re-application decision chart. Expected spotted wing drosophila control in blueberries, based on each compound's inherent toxicity to spotted-wing drosophila, maximum residual and wash-off potential from rainfall.						
Insecticides	Rainfall = 0.5 inch		Rainfall = 1.0 inch		Rainfall = 2.0 inch	
	*1 day	*7 days	*1 day	*7 days	*1 day	*7 days
Imidan	Sufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Sufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue
Mustang Maxx	Sufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Sufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue
Lannate	Sufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Sufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue
Malathion	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue
Delegate	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue
Assail	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue	Insufficient insecticide residue

* Number of days after insecticide application that the precipitation event occurred. **Insufficient insecticide residue** = Insufficient insecticide residue remains to provide significant activity on the target pest, and thus an immediate re-application is recommended. **Sufficient insecticide residue** = Sufficient insecticide residue remaining to provide significant activity on the target pest, although residual activity may be reduced.

Cranberry fruitworm and cherry fruitworm: Traps were checked last week, and no moth activity was detected in any traps (Table 7).

Table 7. 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
6/27	0.28	1	0.28	2	0.25	1	0	0
7/3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

AC: Atlantic County, BC: Burlington County

Scale: Crawler activity in terrapin scale traps decreased this week, whereas activity in Putnam scale traps increased slightly compared with the previous week (Table 8).

Scale infestation on fruit increased slightly compared with the previous week (Table 9).

Table 8. 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
6/27	45	193	32	119
7/3	41.7	315	27.5	46

Table 9. Scale Infestation on Fruit

	Scale % infestation on fruit	
	Avg	High
6/12	0.13	2.1
6/20	0.19	5.7
6/27	0.06	1.5
7/3	0.06	1.8

Diseases

The IPM team continues to observe higher levels of anthracnose than in the previous week. The recent wet weather is conducive for anthracnose development on berries. Fungicide applications are still merited in fields where anthracnose has been reported. Phosphite materials are effective and have a 0-day PHI.

Additionally, mummy berry and *Alternaria* have been observed during scouting. The increased incidence of *Alternaria* is most likely associated with fruit injury caused by mechanical harvesting.



For fungicide recommendations, refer to the Rutgers Blueberry Commercial Production Guide 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
6/27	0.007	0.3	0.08	2.2	0.07	3
7/3	0.005	0.2	0.227	4.1	0.07	1.2