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THE BLUEBERRY BULLETIN

A Weekly Update to Growers



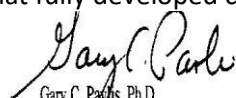
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2026 Commercial Blueberry Pest Control Recommendations for New Jersey:
<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/pubs/publication.php?pid=E265>

Blueberry Culture

Dr. Gary C. Pavlis, Atlantic County Agricultural Agent

Pruning timing - 'Bluecrop' harvest is finishing, and 'Elliott' has begun and it's only the third week of July. It appears that all berries will be off the bushes this week, making this one of the earliest harvest years in a long time. Some growers who will still have labor are considering what this labor can be used for. One grower asked me if pruning could be started when harvest is finished. The answer is yes, but at what cost? It must be remembered that the objective of pruning is to remove old wood but also to stimulate new cane growth. New canes are where the money is. The ideal time to prune is late winter, after the worst of the winter is over. As a result, dead wood can be removed AND new canes are stimulated at a time when they have the entire season to grow. If pruning is done in mid-summer or early fall, the canes start to grow, usually only reach 10-12 inches of height, and then stop when the winter temps cease growth. The next season these canes do not continue to grow but put out laterals. Laterals at 12 inches high produce fruit that will never be picked. In addition, these canes are often killed back by the winter producing canes which will never amount to anything from a fruit standpoint.

Years ago, through our research we proved that cutting canes at 6, 8, 10 inches high results in that cane dying and often developing stem canker. This old practice of pruning has largely been abandoned. Pruning in the summer and early fall does not develop productive canes and is not recommended. I realize that labor is always an issue but remember that fully developed canes put money in the grower's pocket.


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 75 conventional and organic blueberry fields in Burlington and Atlantic Counties.

Monitoring of developing fruit indicated an overall decrease in pest activity, including feeding and oviposition by leafrollers, plum curculio, and cherry and cranberry fruitworms (Tables 1 and 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
7/10	0.01	0.4	0	0
7.18	0.06	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
6/27	0	0	0.002	0.2
7/3	0.001	0.1	0.001	0.1
7/10	0	0	0	0
7/18	0	0	0	0



Aphids

Aphid populations have declined significantly compared with previous weeks, likely due to recent weather conditions and the hardening of new shoot growth (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
7/10	0.05 A	6
7/18	0	0
Aphid Colony Size: A: 1-5, B: 6-10, C: 11-15, D: >16		

Trap Monitoring

This week, spotted-wing drosophila trap captures slightly decreased in both Atlantic and Burlington Counties. If harvest is still underway, spotted-wing drosophila remains the primary target for insecticide applications (Table 4). Blueberry maggot adults are also present at low numbers, likely because traps are located in fields where pesticide applications have not been made.

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
7/10	31.2	130	86.1	177	0.15	12	0	0
7/18	28.3	110	59.3	125	0.07	5	0.16	1



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
7/10	1.40	14	0.33	2	396	1970	393	2025
7/18	0.98	13	0	0	191.1	2025	235	1350

Scales

Crawler activity of both terrapin scale and Putnam scale declined over the past week (Table 7). Monitoring will continue throughout the fall to detect the emergence of the second crawler generation and determine the appropriate timing for pesticide applications. Continued monitoring will help ensure that management recommendations are based on current pest activity and that insecticide applications are made when crawlers are most susceptible.

Scale infestations on fruit decreased last week due to ongoing harvest activities (Table 8).

Life history. Scales feed on plant sap, reducing plant vigor and fruit yield. Adult scales are protected by a waxy covering and are commonly found on older canes beneath loose bark. In New Jersey, Putnam scale has two generations per year. It overwinters as second-instar nymphs under loose bark, with spring activity beginning in early February. Eggs from the first generation are laid in late April, and immature crawlers appear in mid-May, with peak activity occurring from late May to early June. A second peak in crawler emergence occurs in early to mid-August.

Monitoring and management. For scale management, target the second generation of crawlers with post-harvest applications of diazinon or pyriproxyfen (Esteem). Monitor crawler activity by wrapping black electrician's tape covered with double-sided sticky tape around canes. Use a hand lens to detect crawlers on the tape. Insecticide applications should be timed to coincide with crawler emergence.

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
6/27	45	193	32	119
7/3	41.7	315	27.5	46
7/10	16.26	74	24.6	61
7/18	6.06	25	12	24

Table 8. 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
7/10	0.07	3.1
7/18	0.02	0.9

Diseases

The IPM team continues to observe anthracnose and Alternaria, likely associated with mechanical damage caused by picking machine activity.

For recommendations on fungicide products, 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
7/10	0.002	0.1	0.20	2.5	0.13	3
7/18	0.001	0.1	1.23	13.1	0.43	9.3

Weeds

Over the next two weeks, the IPM team will monitor weed populations across commercial fields to assess weed pressure and species composition. These observations will be used to develop timely, site-specific weed management recommendations and support informed herbicide selection and other integrated weed management practices.