



Integrated Pest Management Program

Department of Plant Science and Landscape
Architecture

Fruit Update – 7/11/25

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Spotted Wing Drosophila:

SWD trap captures remain incredibly low across the state. I've gotten calls from farmers asking why this is as they are not finding any in their fruit either. This is good news. The experiment station, Dr. Claire Rutledge, has been doing great work with the parasitoid wasps. Our hope, and what we see supports this, is that the parasitoids are out there doing their job. Monitoring should continue through till the need of your season either way. If anyone is noticing high SWD pressure at your farm, please let me know.

Brown Rot:

The second critical period for brown rot control is 3 weeks prior to harvest. During this time fruit is susceptible to infection. This continual rain and warm weather are the perfect conditions for this disease. Please maintain your fungicide covers through harvest. For a list of materials and rates please refer to the New England Management Guide.

Blueberries:

Stem Gall Wasp – Although sprays for other insects tend to be enough to knock down the Blueberry Stem Gall Wasp, you may have already started to notice these galls in your blocks. Remove any galls during your typical pruning windows – that's your best bet. These galls can cause severe reduction in the growth and vigor of shoots/stems. Adults will emerge from these galls next year, around bloom. Those adults can be dealt with utilizing a petal fall spray. [More information here.](#)



Grapes:

The wet, warm weather has allowed many diseases to establish a foothold in many vineyards. For me, Black Rot and Downy Mildew are at the top of the list.

Black Rot – Sanitation is key with this disease. Mummies, canes with lesions, and infected tendrils need to be removed. Maintaining fungicide cover starting from 10-16 cm shoots can offer good protection as well. See the [New England Small Fruit management Guide](#) for information on materials.





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Downey Mildew – Downey Mildew requires free moisture to cause infection. It also prefers more moderate temperatures. Unlike Powdery Mildew, the fungus grows on the underside of leaves and can be difficult to spot early on – starting out as pale-yellow angular spots on the leaf surface. Management requires good sanitation and debris removal, improving air circulation to facilitate drying, and fungicide coverage. For a list of materials, visit the [New England Small Fruit Management Guide](#).

Farm Succession Survey – from Kristen Devlin (Penn State)

Dear Farmer,

I am writing from the [Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development](#) (NERCRD), based at Penn State, to request your help in distributing a survey to farm owners in your network. The goal of the survey is to **gain insights from farm owners on the challenges and successes of farm transition, succession planning, and generational change**. Feedback we receive will directly impact programs and policies aimed at supporting farmers through transition processes, ensuring that their needs and perspectives are heard.

The survey:

- is open to any farm owner in the Northeast U.S.*
- takes approximately 15-20 minutes to complete, and all responses are confidential; and,
- is a collaboration between the PA Department of Agriculture, Penn State Extension, PA Farm Link, and NERCRD.

More information about the survey [is available here](#). The survey can be completed using this link: https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_agyxK32aFHuM78G

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