



Fruit Update – 6/26/26

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Blueberry Maggot:

Blueberry Maggot emergence occurs at 913 degree days. This is predicted to occur from June 28-29. The rain we've gotten has served to moisten and loosen the soil, creating ideal conditions for emergence. Females will first feed and then lay eggs on ripening berries. Once eggs hatch, larvae will begin to feed inside of the fruit. After a few weeks, the larvae will drop down to the soil to pupate and overwinter.

Blueberry Maggot can be monitored using yellow sticky traps with an ammonium lure. Traps should be placed in the center of the bush. The threshold for this pest is 1 per trap.

Management for Blueberry Maggot is comprised of keeping up on the picking, not letting infested fruit drop to the ground, and insecticide sprays. Materials with good to excellent efficacy against Blueberry Maggot are listed below.

Admire Pro (4A) – Good
Asana (3) – Good
Assail (4A) – Excellent
Brigade (3) – Good
Cormoran (4A, 15) – Good
Danitol (3) – Good
Delegate (5) – Good
Diazinon (1B) – Good

Entrust (5) – Good [OMRI]
Exirel (28) – Good
GF-120 Naturalyte Bait (5) – Good [OMRI]
Hero (3) – Good
Imidan (1B) – Excellent
Lannate (1A) – Good
Malathion (1B) – Good
Sivanto Prime (4D) – Good

Strawberries:

Renovation – It's just about that time. June-bearing strawberry renovation needs to occur directly after harvest ends. Renovation helps to maintain orderly plantings and walkways, reduces disease and insect pressures, and stimulates runner and flower bud formation.

- 1) Mow off the tops of your plants carefully to leave the crowns intact. This will remove and destroy any diseased foliage as well as destroy a habitat for insect pests.
- 2) Narrow beds with a rototiller/cultivator. This will remove excess runners and vegetative growth as well as improve air flow and light penetration.
- 3) Thin plants – for older plantings (3+ years) that have gotten too dense. Again, this helps to increase air flow and light penetration.



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- 4) Fertilize – you want to focus on applying enough nitrogen directly after renovation, 30-50 lbs/acre. A second application should be made in late August, 30-40 lbs/acre. If you have done a soil or foliar test, you may also need to apply other nutrients at this time. Please reach out if you need a recommendation for materials to apply, organic or conventional.
- 5) Weed Management – Immediately after mowing, pre-emergent can be used to keep weed pressure down. Organic growers will need to utilize contact herbicides. Caution should be taken not to hit newly renovated plants. Hand cultivation can continue as the season progresses to avoid competition with the newly renovated plants. For a list of materials please refer to the [New England Small Fruit Management Guide](#).
- 6) Irrigation – Plants need a steady source of water throughout this process and afterwards. 1-2” of water per week is sufficient. This will help plants to develop, acquire nutrients, and will set you up nicely for next year.

Reminders:

- **Tissue samples** can be taken for most of your fruit crops (besides grapes) and submitted to the UConn SNAL lab. These results should be used in tandem with your soil tests to determine corrective action. About 100 of the most recently matured leaves should be collected. Collected leaves should be from the same variety.
- **Return Bloom Sprays** can be applied now though early July for varieties that tend to bear biennially if you have not done them already.
- **No fertilization into July.** If you have fertilizer to apply to your small or tree fruit, try to get those on before we get too far into July. Later applications of nitrogen in particular will slow the plant's shift to dormancy, increasing the likelihood for winter injury.

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