

Weekly Berry Call – June 8, 2011

Participants: Laura McDermott (Eastern NY/Upper Hudson/Lower Adirondack), Molly Shaw (South Central/Southern Tier), Marvin Pritts (Finger Lakes region/Ithaca), Cathy Heidenreich (Western NY/Finger Lakes region/Geneva), Dale Ila Riggs (Stephentown, Eastern NY), Sonia Schloemann (University of Massachusetts, Amherst), Jeff Miller (Oneida County, Marcy), Greg Loeb, Cornell University, (NYSAES-Geneva), Colleen Cavagna (Alleghany county/Western NY).

Growing conditions: (courtesy NY NASS)

Week ending June 6, 2011: The week started out with temperatures well above average Sunday through Wednesday, then well below average to near normal Thursday through Saturday. Temperatures average as much as 15 degrees above normal during the Sunday through Wednesday time period with many locations getting above 90 degrees for the first time this year. A strong cold front moved across the region on Wednesday and was accompanied strong to severe thunderstorms. Behind the cold front, temperatures were as much as 10 degrees below normal on Thursday then moderated to near normal by Saturday. Generally the only precipitation that occurred last week was with the cold front on Wednesday. Rainfall amounts varied widely as this cold front moved through with some locations getting over one inch of rain and some locations getting no rain.

Reports from the Field

Stephentown, Eastern NY

On June 7th picked 35 flats of June bearers – the earliest “late” year ever! The earliest June bearers were those that were under row cover all winter – no straw. Summer raspberries at fruit set, blueberries are sizing fruit. Some inconsistencies in fruit set – early blossoms look good, but later blossoms not so great. New planting of day neutral strawberries are putting out blossoms.

Eastern NY/Upper Hudson/Lower Adirondacks

Violent weather including pockets of hail and damaging winds last week after berry call. No major damage reported as hail was sporadic enough. Strawberries in southern part of region have begun harvest. Probably next week for northern part of region and Mohawk valley. Blueberries fruit set very sporadic between location, and even within field. This despite a reasonably good bloom.

Amherst Massachusetts

Similar weather observations and phenology as eastern NY locations.

South Central/Southern Tier region

Blueberries done with bloom. Strawberries should begin harvest within 1-2 weeks. Hot and dry!

Oneida County

GDDs 86/50 from May 1st to June 4th – 456. Rainfall for week ending June 4th: 2/10” total most falling on May 30th. Strawberries will begin harvest by the weekend or early next week. 2 growers reported noticing sap beetles and 1 grower reported root weevil and plans on using Platinum to control. Erratic blueberry set reported here as well.

Western NY/Finger Lakes region/Geneva

Picking in most locations should be starting this weekend. Fruit set in blueberries in various locations also quite erratic. Possible grub damage to blueberries, also plenty of spittlebugs noticed and phytotoxicity on strawberries.

Special guest topic: Insect Concerns for the 2011 Season

Dr. Greg Loeb from the Cornell University NYS Agricultural Experiment Station discussed insect pests that may be emerging this season.

Discussion about possible grubs on blueberries. This pest is not known to be a problem in NYS, but feeding injury was identified by Dr. Gary Pavlis, Rutgers on 3-5 year old plants, sent in by western NY grower. The symptoms on top of plant appear as erratic shoot development and erratic fruit set. Sod between rows dead and soil is very sandy. Other potential explanations as grub damage may only be causing a portion of the problem include physiological imbalances due to dry year last year. If shoot growth is somewhat reduced, buds along shoot differentiate into flowers and are not evenly distributed between flower buds and vegetative buds. Additionally, there may be some drought stress on the roots which also will lead to imbalance in the shoots. This grower does have irrigation, but no information on irrigation rate.

Weekly Berry Call – June 8, 2011

Other strawberry pests:

Tarnished Plant Bug (TPB): In some areas TPB has exceeded threshold.

Strawberry Sap Beetle (SSB): Seen in fields without ripe berries, which is unusual. Usually the adults are looking for ripe fruit where they can lay their eggs. There is chemical control for SSB, but Dr. Loeb did not think any of them did a fantastic job. Assail is a more targeted material, while Danitol and Brigade are broader spectrum. Brigade has the shortest days to harvest and therefore might be the most useful to berry growers. SSB may be more of a problem for smaller fields because of the increased borders where the overwinter. Also older fields might be more at risk, especially if they had a large amount of un-harvested berries the year before which would promote increased egg laying.

Oberon is a miticide that is also a growth regulator. This material is not yet labeled in NYS, so Dr. Loeb did not have any experience with it. Sonia Schloemann inquired about it and said that many growers indicated that it did a great job on SSB, but the label even in Mass may not include that pest. Regardless, this type of pesticide needs to go on early in the outbreak in order for it to be successful.

Strawberry Rootworm *Paria fragariae*: is an insect that looks quite similar to the Strawberry Sap beetle. The adults are small, round beetles with copper markings on their backs. The immature root-feeding grubs are also small (1/8"), creamy white in color with 3 pairs of legs, and are actively feeding on roots in the late spring to early summer. The new generation of adults appears after renovation (late July or early August).

This rootworm can be observed now feeding on the leaves resulting in shot holes. Their second feeding period is October. The second feeding period usually is more evident because a greater number of beetles are feeding then. The earlier feeding is done by the overwintering population.

Strawberry Root Weevil: Jeff Miller's report that an Oneida county grower had plans to apply Platinum through his trickle system to control root weevil alerted the group to the Special Local Needs label that is available in NYS. This is good news as work done with Admire in the past – applied as a drench – did not have great results on root weevil. Brigade can also be used to target adults, but Platinum may provide the best season long control. Work done by Dr. Richard Cowles in Connecticut using nematodes as a biological control has had some success. To listen to Dr. Cowles webinar on managing this insect, go to: <http://www.fruit.cornell.edu/berry/ipm/index.htm>.

For a helpful fact sheet that differentiates the three strawberry root pests, go to: <http://pmo.umext.maine.edu/factsht/Strawpro2.htm>.

Whitefly control in High Tunnels vs. Greenhouse: *Encarsia* predator release in HT failed and supplier indicated that the species of whitefly may be important. The assumption was that the pest was greenhouse whitefly, but it may be sweet potato whitefly. **How to differentiate**

Four lined plant bug: Not known to be a pest on berry crops, but damage has been seen on blueberries, currants and gooseberries in the past. Seen in high numbers in a raspberry patch on weeds growing right beside raspberries, but no damage seen on raspberry foliage.

Differences in types of damage between cyclamen mite and spittle bug? Cyclamen mite causes much more significant leaf stunting and distortion. Spittlebug can cause leaves to become wrinkled and dark green, but not near the stunting or severity of distortion that results in the compact leaf mass pictured below.



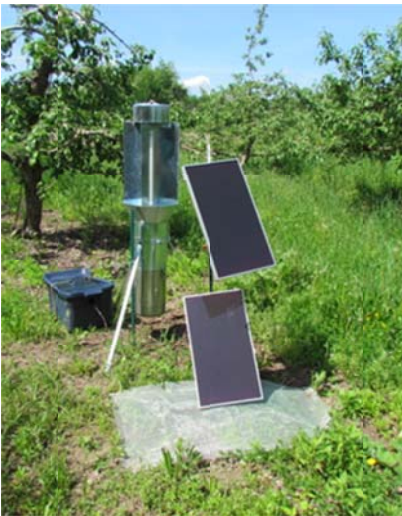
plant bug

Weekly Berry Call – June 8, 2011

Monitoring for Brown Marmorated Stink Bug

Efforts to monitor for the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug have been underway in eastern NY for about a month. Traps have been set up throughout the mow and upper Hudson Valley. The HV Regional Fruit program has set up a web site for this pest and has a map posted with known monitoring sites across the state and confirmed presence of the pest:

<http://hudsonvf.cce.cornell.edu/bmsb1.html>. All of the BMSB traps are monitored weekly and results are reported to the Hudson Valley website.



Weather Data for Week Ending Sunday, June 5, 2011

Station	Temperature (°F)				Growing Degree Days Base 50° ^{1/}			Precipitation (Inches) ^{1/}			
	High	Low	Avg	Dep. from Norm	Week	Season	Dep. from Norm	Week	Dep. from Norm	Season	Dep. from Norm
<u>Hudson Valley</u>											
Albany	93	43	70	+7	141	571	+222	0.00	-0.84	9.34	+2.34
Glens Falls	89	43	67	+6	119	458	+178	0.00	-0.78	9.61	+2.47
Poughkeepsie	90	46	70	+7	141	609	+215	0.24	-0.70	9.98	+1.50
<u>Mohawk Valley</u>											
Boonville	83	42	62	+5	87	300	+102	0.21	-0.84	16.34	+6.55
<u>Champlain Valley</u>											
Plattsburgh	89	44	65	+4	104	364	+81	0.08	-0.62	14.43	+8.26
<u>St. Lawrence Valley</u>											
Canton	85	43	64	+4	98	373	+131	0.24	-0.49	12.46	+6.10
Massena	87	40	66	+6	113	401	+134	0.00	-0.66	10.59	+4.93
<u>Great Lakes</u>											
Buffalo	83	47	66	+5	116	458	+134	0.57	-0.25	14.17	+7.56
Wales	86	41	64	+6	102	365	+123	0.55	-0.38	13.35	+5.30
Niagara Falls	86	46	66	+5	114	414	+73	1.00	+0.24	12.06	+5.40
Rochester	91	45	68	+7	128	462	+120	0.46	-0.23	10.67	+4.84
Watertown	86	39	64	+5	97	380	+136	0.05	-0.60	10.46	+4.79
<u>Central Lakes</u>											
Dansville	93	44	71	+9	145	574	+249	0.80	-0.02	9.59	+3.27
Geneva	91	48	68	+7	128	461	+151	0.34	-0.46	10.22	+3.73
Honeoye	90	41	67	+6	121	472	+153	0.78	-0.02	10.44	+4.05
Ithaca	89	40	66	+6	113	439	+137	0.66	-0.18	13.69	+6.87
Penn Yan	91	50	69	+8	136	497	+187	0.38	-0.42	9.32	+2.83
Syracuse	92	48	69	+8	135	615	+269	0.11	-0.70	12.48	+5.28
Warsaw	85	45	65	+7	105	349	+131	1.26	+0.32	14.94	+7.36
<u>Western Plateau</u>											
Hornell Almond Dam	90	41	66	+7	113	396	+152	0.86	+0.06	13.71	+7.47
Elmira	91	40	67	+7	124	486	+190	0.83	-0.01	11.85	+5.36
Franklinville	88	37	64	+8	100	358	+179	1.06	+0.12	16.19	+8.69
Jamestown	89	41	66	+8	114	411	+191	0.74	-0.27	14.14	+5.65
<u>Eastern Plateau</u>											
Binghamton	87	46	66	+6	115	441	+157	0.33	-0.49	16.05	+8.96
Cobleskill	87	45	65	+6	107	399	+143	0.00	-0.96	9.07	+1.43
Morrisville	85	43	62	+4	87	360	+120	0.09	-0.82	11.49	+4.04
Norwich	90	40	64	+4	97	412	+152	0.26	-0.66	13.34	+5.56
Oneonta	88	41	64	+6	101	409	+179	0.07	-0.93	14.79	+6.30
<u>Coastal</u>											
Bridgehamton	81	46	67	+6	121	449	+161	0.47	-0.40	7.04	-1.37
New York	90	56	73	+6	165	675	+134	0.23	-0.61	9.10	+0.89

^{1/} Season accumulations are for April 1st to date. Weekly accumulations are through 7:00 AM Sunday Morning

The information contained in this weekly release is obtained in cooperation with Cornell Cooperative Extension, USDA Farm Service Agency, the National Weather Service, Agricultural Weather Information Service and other knowledgeable persons associated with New York agriculture. Their cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Visit our website at www.nass.usda.gov/ny and click on "Subscribe to NY Reports" for instructions on subscribing electronically. You may also visit our website to access all our reports which are available for free online.