

Michigan Blueberry IPM Newsletter



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

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Last issue of the
season – See you
again in 2010!

BLUEBERRY NEWS YOU CAN USE...

Last issue for 2009: This is the last issue for the 2009 growing season. We were successful in getting additional funding in support of this newsletter for 2010, keeping this publication free of charge to you. The next issue will be published in spring 2010.

Winter meeting schedule: See page 6 for information on winter grower meetings.

Help us serve you better! Please take a few minutes to fill out the end-of-season survey (starts on page 3).

Blueberry Scorch & Blueberry Shock Virus Meeting Summary

Paul Jenkins, Small Fruit Education Coordinator, Michigan State University

On September 24, 2009, a meeting was held at the Trevor Nichols Research Complex in Fennville to update our industry on the discovery of two new blueberry viruses in Michigan: scorch and shock. Over 100 people attended the meeting to learn about the discovery, regulation, and biology of these viruses. Presentations from specialists at the MDA and MSU can be found at the MSU blueberry website: <http://blueberries.msu.edu/virus.html>.

New Blueberry Fact Sheets for these viruses will be available soon through your county extension office or online at: <http://web2.msue.msu.edu/bulletins/intro.cfm>. I will send a PDF version of these fact sheets to everyone on the newsletter distribution list when it is available.

If you are a grower and suspect scorch or shock on your farm, here are your options:

- Contact your local extension educator.
- Send plant sample to MSU in overnight mail or drop off at:
Diagnostic Services, Michigan State University, 101 CIPS Building, East Lansing, MI 48824
Tel. 517-355-4536; Website: www.pestid.msu.edu
Mark the package "For virus testing"
- Send plant samples to a private lab (there will be a fee):
 - 1) Agdia, Inc., 30380 County Road 6, Elkhart, IN 46514
phone: 1-574-264-2615 or 1-800-62-AGDIA; Email: info@agdia.com; web: www.agdia.com
OR
 - 2) AC Diagnostics, 1131 W Cato Springs Road, Fayetteville, AR 72701
Phone: 479-251-1960; 479-595-0320; Email: infor@acdiainc.com; Web: www.acdiainc.com

Fast facts about blueberry scorch and shock in Michigan:

- Two blueberry plant diseases have been identified in Michigan for the first time – blueberry shock and blueberry scorch. Both viruses are found in other regions of blueberry production in North America.
- Blueberry scorch and shock are exclusively plant diseases and do not pose a food safety or human health threat.
- Both diseases have the potential to cause significant losses to Michigan blueberry production if they spread through the main production regions.
- Scorch was tentatively identified in fall 2008 and retested under greenhouse conditions in spring 2009 at which time the positive diagnosis was confirmed. Fall is an unreliable time of year to sample for disease due to low virus concentration.
- Shock was detected in mid-June at the Michigan State University (MSU) Trevor Nichols Research Complex (TNRC) in Fennville, Mich. While only a small number of bushes tested positive for shock, all of the blueberry plantings will be destroyed prior to bloom in 2010 to safeguard the blueberry industry.
- Blueberry fields within a mile from the TNRC have tested negative for shock, and will be monitored in 2010 and beyond.
- All known positive plants for scorch in the state have been destroyed. Adjacent fields tested negative, and will be monitored in 2010 and beyond.
- The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) and MSU are aggressively working to eradicate these diseases so they do not become established in Michigan.
- MDA's Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division has been diligently monitoring for these diseases since 2002 when they implemented an external quarantine at the request of the blueberry industry.
- Consumers can select Michigan blueberries with confidence that they are getting a wholesome, safe and healthy product.
- Michigan is the nation's No.1 blueberry producer (110 million pounds and \$124 million last year).

End of season survey

Please take a few minutes to fill out our end-of-season survey. Our team works hard each season to provide you with timely information for improving pest management. Your input will help us serve you better!

3 ways to submit your survey:

FAX: Fax completed surveys to 517-353-4995, Attention: Paul Jenkins

MAIL: Mail completed surveys to: Paul Jenkins
Michigan State University
B18 Food Safety & Toxicology Building
East Lansing, MI 48824

EMAIL: Email completed surveys to: jenki132@msu.edu

2009 SURVEY

1. How often do you read the Michigan Blueberry IPM Newsletter?

- Each time it is sent
- Once a month
- Only when an article is relevant
- Rarely

2. How much of the Michigan Blueberry IPM Newsletter do you read?

- Only the News You Can Use
- First few pages
- Specific articles that interest me
- All of it

3. How would you rate the *quality* of information provided in the Michigan Blueberry IPM Newsletter?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

4. How would rate the *timeliness* of information provided in the Michigan Blueberry IPM Newsletter?

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

5. During the growing season, where do you get timely information about pest management? (circle all that apply)

- The Michigan Blueberry IPM Newsletter
- MSU blueberry website (blueberries.msu.edu)
- IPM meetings
- Contact with extension educators
- Other websites/resources: _____

6. Has information in the Michigan Blueberry IPM Newsletter helped with your pest management?

- a. Yes
- b. No

If yes.... How did it help? (circle all that apply)

- More information on insect biology
- More information on disease biology
- Better awareness of pest activity
- Helped plan spray timing
- Helped reduce sprays
- Awareness of IPM meetings
- Other _____

If no....Please tell us what you would like to see added to the newsletter:

7. Which information in the Michigan Blueberry IPM Newsletter did you use to guide pest management on your farm this year? (circle all that apply)

- Insect scouting report
- Disease scouting report
- Degree days
- Fruitworm degree day model at Enviroweather
- Information on new pesticides

8. If you had better control of diseases, please tell us which diseases were better controlled, and estimate the value of that increased control.

I had better control of these diseases: _____

Increased disease control on my farm is estimated to be: \$ _____

9. For fruitworm control in 2009, which of the following did you do? (circle all that apply)

- a. Monitored with traps
- b. Checked traps once a week
- c. Checked traps more often at the start of the flight
- d. Used Enviroweather website to check model and time sprays
- e. Used IPM Update to time sprays
- f. Used crop phenology to time sprays (immediate post-bloom)

10. If you sprayed for fruitworms in 2009, which of these describes your actions in 2009 (circle all that apply)

- a. Used Intrepid during bloom
- b. Used Intrepid after bloom
- c. Used Guthion by ground application
- d. Used Guthion by aerial application

11. If you used the degree day model in 2009 for fruitworm control, did you achieve worse, similar, or better control than usual?

- a. Worse control
- b. Similar control
- c. Better control

12. If you had better control of fruitworms, please estimate the value of that increased control.

\$ _____

13. This newsletter underwent some format changes in 2009. Would you like to see any additional changes to the Blueberry IPM Newsletter?

- a. Keep it the same
- b. Make the following changes: _____

14. The MSU Blueberry Team continues to work at securing funding to provide the Michigan Blueberry IPM Newsletter free of charge to the blueberry industry. If our funding was reduced or not available, what would you be willing to pay for an annual subscription to continue receiving this newsletter?

- a. Nothing, I only want it if it is free
- b. \$25
- c. \$50
- d. \$100

15. Other comments: _____

Winter grower meetings

Great Lakes Fruit, Vegetable, and Farm Market EXPO December 8–10, 2009 Grand Rapids, MI

Wednesday, December 9

Blueberry I

- 9:00AM Rufus Isaacs, Integrating new tools for blueberry insect control
- 9:30AM Robin Rosenbaum, Update on new blueberry viruses in Michigan
- 9:45AM Bob Martin, What we know about scorch and shock in the Pacific Northwest
- 10:25AM Bob Carini & Tom Payne, What's happening with blueberry production, consumption, and the USHBC

Blueberry II

- 2:00PM Annemiek Schilder, IPM approaches to control of blueberry diseases
- 2:30PM Mark Longstroth, Blueberry production in China
- 3:00PM Eric Hanson, Weed management: The right product, rate, and timing
- 3:30PM Shelly Hartmann, Michigan Blueberry Advisory Committee annual meeting

The full Expo program and more information can be found at: <http://www.glexpo.com/index.php>

Southwest Hort Days February 3–4, 2010 Benton Harbor, MI Blueberry program still in development.



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