



Integrated Pest Management Program

Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture
UConn Extension

Fruit Update: April 10, 2022

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Mummyberry: Forsythia are blooming which means Mummyberry overwintering spores are maturing on berries infected last year that are sitting comfortably under your blueberry bushes just waiting for rain. Optimum conditions are cool, rainy weather with temperatures between 50 and 62 degrees F – we'll have that this week. Infections can occur with a wetting period of 8 hours at 50 degrees, 6 hours at 57 degrees. However, infections can also occur with cooler temperatures – 43 degrees and wet for 8 to 10 hours.

There is still time to apply a 2-4 inch layer of mulch around your blueberry bushes. The mulch will cover the overwintering mummified berries that are infected with this fungus which in turn prevents mature spores from reaching green tissue.

If you had Mummy Berry last year and did not mulch your blueberries this spring to cover the overwintering spores, be prepared to apply a fungicide at bud break if wet weather is expected. For a list of materials see <https://ag.umass.edu/fruit/ne-small-fruit-management-guide/highbush-blueberries>

Scab: Scab spore maturity was very low 5 days when UMass checked. It is supposed to be warm this week – spring may actually finally be here – so buds will be moving. Several early varieties are already at green tip. When rain is forecast this week, check [NEWA](#) for a weather station near you for the wetting period and average temperature.

Copper, no later than green tip, for scab and Fireblight on apples and pears. There are several labeled copper materials. Check the [New England Tree Fruit Management guide](#) for materials and rates.

SJS and Mites: in blocks with scale and/or mites in 2021, oil now will help to suffocate the overwintering stages (mites eggs and scale black caps). 3% at GT, 2% at HIG, and reduce to 1% at pink.

For scale, Esteem at 4-5 oz/acre or Centaur @ 34.5 oz/acre at HIG are other options. An organic option that is fairly good at Venerate + Nufilm.

For mites. Materials rated as highly effective include Apollo, Onager Optek, and Zeal (all ovicides and all IRAC 10B) and Nealta (IRAC 25).

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