



## Integrated Pest Management Program

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### **Berry Update: July 11, 2022**

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The big news is that **Spotted Wing Drosophila** are now being caught in traps. Numbers are very low in each trap (1/trap), but the population is going to build up quickly. The 2021 chemical chart is applicable for 2022 – no new materials. The 2021 chart is [here](#).

In addition to insecticide applications, be sure to maintain open plantings, and pick every day or two, leaving no over-ripe fruit, although we all know this is not always possible with pick-your-own farms that do not have extra labor available. When picking, it is best if you can attach a trash bucket/bag to your belt to put the infected berries into while separately picking your good berries. **DO NOT** drop the infected fruit on the ground and **DO NOT** compost the infected fruit – they will be in heaven in your compost pile. Instead, seal them in a bag and dispose of them.

**Blueberry Stem Gall Wasp** galls are visible – some are very small, and you will have to look hard, but others are easily visible. This wasp lays eggs in new growth in the spring. Larvae feeding and development causes the plant tissue to expand resulting in the gall. This causes stunting of the new cane growth. The larvae remain in the gall until the next year and pupate around bloom when adults emerge.

Not all varieties are equally susceptible to this wasp. Jersey and Liberty are highly susceptible while Bluecrop is highly resistant.

There is no established economic threshold. Insecticides can be applied at petal fall and then again 10 days later to target adults. Pruning out is your best option. Where populations are high, combine insecticide in the spring with pruning out because you may not get them all. When pruning or pulling them off, don't over-look the short young shoots near the soil – the over-looked galls are often found there.



As you stroll through your planting, this is another pest that should be removed, bagged and disposed of. **DO NOT** drop them on the ground or put in the compost. This won't resolve your problem.

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