

# Wild Blueberry Newsletter



June 2009

## Wild Blueberry Field Day

The annual summer field day for wild blueberry growers will be held on **Wednesday, July 15, 2009** at Blueberry Hill Farm on Route #1 in Jonesboro. The meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. with blueberry growers, processors, and University and government employees, affiliated with the blueberry industry, discussing this year's wild blueberry crop. The program for the meeting is listed below and includes WBANA presentations on health and marketing. Researchers will be on hand to explain current research projects at Blueberry Hill Farm and with cooperative growers, and will be available to hear your concerns and answer your questions. There will be two pesticide credits offered to certified pesticide applicators for participating in the program.

*I hope to see you there!*

### 2009 Wild Blueberry Summer Field Day Agenda Blueberry Hill Farm - Wild Blueberry Research and Extension Facility

10:30 - 11:00 A.M.	Crop Discussion (Light Blue Metal Building)
11:00 - 11:40 A.M.	Wild Blueberry Health Speak, Susan B. Davis, MS, RD, Nutrition advisor, WBANA  Wild Blueberry Association of North America Marketing Update, John Sauve, Swardlick Marketing Group
11:40 - 11:50 P.M.	30 Year Service Award Presentation, John Rebar, Director, University of Maine Cooperative Extension
12:00 - 1:30 P.M	Cookout
1:30 - 4:00 P.M.	Research Demonstrations:  Research Into New Management For Blueberry Maggot Fly, Frank Drummond, UMaine  Ant Research Update, Beth Choate, UMaine  Management of Blueberry Flea Beetle, Judy Collins, UMaine  Research at the University of Maine on Honey Bee Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), Jennifer Lund, UMaine  Research on Bumble Bee Biology and Ecology, Sara Bushmann, UMaine  Mulching Effects on Wild Blueberry Water Demand, Jim Hunt, USDA ARS  Gypsum Evaluations, James Santiago, UMaine  Weed Management Research, Dave Yarborough, UMaine  Demonstration of Smucker Wiper Equipment, Dave Yarborough, UMaine  Two recertification credits

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## Time for Leaf and Soil Samples

Leaf samples should be taken at the tip-dieback stage of blueberry growth (around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July) on pruned fields in order to determine your fertilizer needs for the next crop cycle. Refer to Wild Blueberry Fact Sheet No. 222, [Leaf and Soil Sampling Procedures](#), for more details. For a single sample, cut three stems from 30 clones and place them in a paper bag with holes, available at your local county Extension office or at Blueberry Hill Farm in Jonesboro. Keep the samples in a warm dry spot with the top of the bag open to promote drying. Bring the sample to your county Extension office, Blueberry Hill Farm or mail the sample to the University of Maine Analytical Lab, 5722 Deering Hall, Orono, ME 04469-5722. The cost of the analysis is \$25 per sample unless you strip the leaves from the stems and include the leaves in the bag, then it is \$22 per sample. Include a check payable to *Maine Soil Testing Service* with the sample.

Soil nutrient analysis levels are not used to determine optimum wild blueberry production - leaf samples must be taken for nutrient analysis - but soil sampling is necessary to determine the soil pH level. If the pH is too high, greater than 5.0, then reducing it will discourage weed growth and reduce the need for herbicides. To get the best control of weeds it is necessary to reduce the pH to 4.0. Recent research has shown that it may be done without injury or loss of blueberry production.

Refer to Wild Blueberry Fact Sheet No. 222, [Leaf and Soil Sampling Procedures](#), for instructions for sampling soil. Place samples in a sturdy container, such as a pint ice cream carton or a University soil sample box available at your local county Extension office or at Blueberry Hill Farm. Indicate pH only on the container, and include a check for \$5 per sample. Either mail to: Soil Testing Service, 5722 Deering Hall, Orono, ME 04469-5722 or you may also give it to your local county Extension office or Blueberry Hill Farm to be transported to the University of Maine. The University of Maine Analytical Lab will analyze the samples for available nutrients in the leaves and pH in the soil. Results will be sent directly to you with the appropriate fertilizer or sulfur recommendations for your field later in the year.

## Monitor for Blueberry Fruit Fly

Blueberry fruit fly sticky traps should be placed out in your fields by late June. This trapping method will provide you with a reliable method of determining the number and emergence time of the fruit fly. This should be done in every cropping field, since the timing of emergence and fly populations vary widely among fields because of microclimate and past infection levels. Refer to Cooperative Extension Fact Sheet No. 201, [Monitoring for the Blueberry Maggot](#), for details on this practice and fact sheet No. 209, 2008 [Insect Control Guide for Wild Blueberries](#) for control measures. The Phercon AM baited traps may be obtained at some of the county soil and water conservation offices or may be ordered from [Great Lakes IPM](#) or call 1-800-235-0285.

Sincerely,



David E. Yarborough  
Extension Blueberry Specialist

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