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Title:

Alfalfa Leafcutting Bees (*Megachile rotundata*) as an
Alternative to Honeybees for Pollination of Highbush
Blueberry and Cranberry.

Abstract:

We investigated alfalfa leafcutting bees (ALB) as an alternative to honeybees for pollination of highbush blueberry and cranberry. Results (1995--1996) indicate ALB has potential in relatively weed-free highbush blueberry fields. Average fruit set was 83.5% for blueberry and 64.7% for cranberry in fields with ALB versus 79.4% for blueberry and 52.6% for cranberry in honeybee fields. In 1995, average berry weight was significantly higher in blueberry fields with ALB. In 1996, no significant differences existed for average percent fruit set, berry weight, or seeds/berry between ALB and honeybees for either crop except for more seeds/cranberry in bogs with ALB.