



Wild Blueberry NEWSLETTER



UNIVERSITY OF
MAINE
Cooperative Extension

Toll-free Number 1-800-897-0757(US and Canada)

July 1997

Summer Farm Field Day - July 16

The annual summer field day will be held on **Wednesday, July 16** at Blueberry Hill Farm on Route 1 in Jonesboro. There will be a meeting at 10 a.m. of blueberry growers, processors, and University and government employees affiliated with the blueberry industry to make an estimate for this year's wild blueberry crop. We will have a cookout at noon (\$4 per person).

After lunch, researchers will be on hand to explain current research projects at Blueberry Hill Farm and with cooperative growers and will be available to answer your questions. This year, we are making an effort to include more demonstrations at the field day. For example, Dave Lambert will be discussing the results of a fungicide trial evaluation conducted this spring for Mummy berry disease, and I will be demonstrating the results of varying the rate of hexazinone applications on MAP fertilizer. Connie Stubbs will demonstrate management of the alfalfa leaf cutting be for pollination and Travis Drake of Wymans's will share his experiences in managing the bees on five acres this spring. I will also have the new blueberry harvester being produced in Canada if it is available. We hope you can all come.

Red Leaf and Red Curls

This year, you may have noticed a lot of red leaves on the blueberry plants in your field. The cold, wet spring was apparently favorable for the symptoms of red leaf disease (*Exobasidium Vaccinii*). The leaves are bright red and a white layer of spores develop on the underside of the leaf. Refer to Wild Blueberry Fact Sheet No. 211, *Blueberry Diseases 1*, for a more complete description and photos of this disease. This disease persists in the stems and rhizomes from year to year and does not spread very rapidly. There is no cure for this disease other than killing the infected plant with a herbicide.

You may have also noticed an other type of red leaf, a red curl, on your newly emerging stems on your pruned blueberry field (But it may also occur to a lesser extent in the crop field). This is caused the blueberry thrips, which are very small insects found in the curled leaf. Refer to Wild Blueberry Fact Sheet No. 202, *Blueberry Thrips*, for a more complete description and information on the life cycle. If you have a few localized spots in your field, then you should burn the infested plants before the end of July. This will kill the insect and keep it from spreading and your blueberry plants will recover. If you have a severe infestation, mark the areas and plan to treat this field with an insecticide in the spring of 1999.



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