

## In-Bloom Pest Management Survey

Blueberry bloom can last 3-4 weeks, during which time honey bees are contracted for pollination, while up to 3-4 + fungicide applications are made for disease control. Insecticides may be used just before bees arrive, or in some cases for 'worm' larvae during bloom.

*Based on our research and other published data we are making the following 'provisional' recommendations:*

1. Make the last prebloom insecticide spray at least 3-4 days before staging bees on the farm, or placing in fields.
2. Make the first bloom fungicide for anthracnose control shortly BEFORE the bees are put into the fields.
3. During bloom, make as many applications as possible when bees have stopped foraging after sunset and at night so foraging bees contact only dry residue.
4. During bloom, if you need an insecticide for 'worms', treat when larvae are small & use a B.t.
5. During bloom, avoid over-spraying the hives and other direct contact with bees. Bees are often 'bearded' on the outsides of the hives, so over-spraying hives directly contacts workers with fresh pesticide, and promotes easy pesticide contamination in the hive when bee grooming takes place.
6. Use single compound tank mixes, and avoid adjuvants. Some adjuvants have been shown to have toxic effects on bees.
7. Communicate with your neighbors and your beekeeper. If your neighbor has not yet removed bees, but you have, then your first post pollination insecticide will still kill bees when they enter your fields.

Based on what you learned today:

Circle 1 choice

- 1) Are you planning to follow at least 1 of the above recommendations?  
Very likely                  Likely                  Probably not, isn't important
- 2) If the answer to number 1 is Very likely or likely, how many practices might you try?  
more than 4                  2-4                  2-3                  1-2                  1
- 3) NOT contacting bees with fresh spray material is very important. Have you tried or plan to try night applications on at least some of your acreage?  
Very likely                  Likely                  Probably not, isn't important
- 4) Given the fact that bees can 'beard-up' on the outsides of hives, do you plan on using practices that avoid direct applications to, or applications that may drift onto the hive?  
Very likely                  Likely                  Probably not, isn't important
- 5) Do you plan on making the first pollination fungicide application just before the bees arrive?  
Very likely                  Likely                  Probably not, isn't important
- 6) Approximate acreage impacted by your decisions.  
<50                  50-150                  >150



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