

# This Month in *Florida Blueberries*



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## BLUEBERRY MANAGEMENT

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The table below lists suggested blueberry management items for April. Suggested management items for the entire calendar year are available in an EDIS publication, Calendar for Southern Highbush Blueberry Management in Florida (<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/HS1363>). Specific disease, insect, and weed controls are listed in the 2024 Florida Blueberry IPM Guide (<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/HS380>), as well as in subject-specific publications referenced below. Also, a list of all UF EDIS blueberry publications can be found at [www.blueberrybreeding.com/blog](http://www.blueberrybreeding.com/blog), along with a summary description and link to each.

Remember to take a look at the UF/IFAS Blueberry Growers Guide phone app (available in both English and Spanish) for field scouting tools, as well as information on all of the UF southern highbush blueberry cultivar, a monthly management calendar, and pesticide information (<https://tosto.re/blueberryuf>).

## Disease

Apply suggested fungicides in rotation for control of anthracnose and/or Alternaria fruit rot; promptly harvest and cool ripe fruit. One tool growers may consider in timing spray applications is the Blueberry Advisory System (BAS) at [www.agroclimate.org/BAS](http://www.agroclimate.org/BAS) (also available as a phone app), which indicates when weather conditions are favorable for the development of anthracnose fruit rot.

## Insect Pests

Monitor for gall midge and flower thrips and control as needed. Spray suggested insecticides to control spotted wing drosophila (SWD), and promptly harvest ripe fruit. If living north of Lake City and there is a history of blueberry maggot, establish yellow sticky traps to monitor for blueberry maggot adults. Also, in infested areas, start scouting for adult Diaprepes (citrus) root weevils, and adult flatheaded borers on the blueberry foliage. No pesticide is labeled in blueberry for citrus root weevil and flatheaded borer; however, some of the cover sprays for spotted wing drosophila will control these pests. See UF EDIS Publication ENY999, Diaprepes Root Weevil on Southern Highbush Blueberry in Florida (<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/IN1241>).

## Weeds

Apply postemergence herbicide if weeds are at densities that hinder bush growth. Carefully read preemergence herbicide labels because they have longer preharvest intervals than many of the postemergence herbicides.

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**THIS MONTH'S BLOG POST**

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**[Managing Spotted Wing Drosophila \(SWD\)](#)**



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### Summer Grower Meetings

Polk County - July 15

Alachua County - July 22

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## CONTACT US

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