

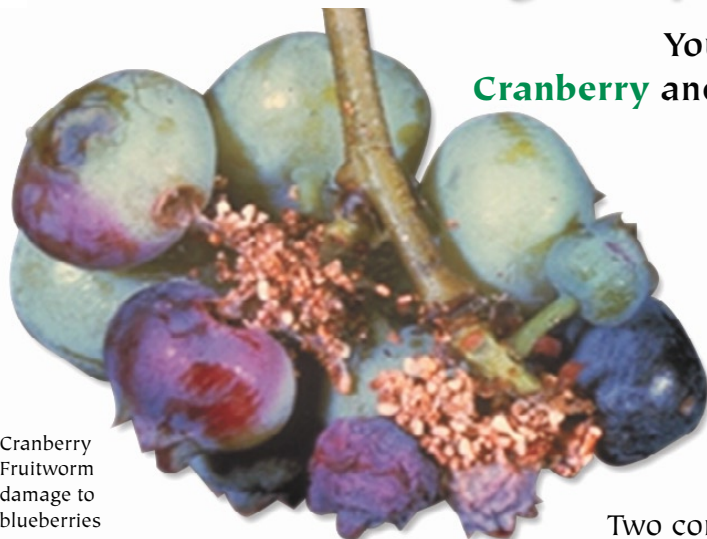
Cornell University  
Cooperative Extension

**SCNYAG**  
South Central New York Agriculture Team  
FRUIT & VEGETABLE PRODUCTION



# Monitoring for Blueberry Fruitworms

Is this a common sight in your blueberries?



Cranberry  
Fruitworm  
damage to  
blueberries

Photo: NRAES Blueberry Production Guide

You probably have damage from  
**Cranberry** and/or **Cherry Fruitworm moth** caterpillars



Cranberry fruitworm, length 1/2"  
photo not to scale



Cherry fruitworm, length 1/4"  
photo not to scale

Two common moths that spend their caterpillar lives in blueberries are Cranberry and Cherry fruitworms.

## Monitoring Saves Time and Money

*Monitoring Shows You When to Spray for Control and When to Save the Spray and Your Time*

### Will Traps Help You?

- ✓ **Do you spray every year assuming you will have an insect problem if you don't?**
  - ➡ Monitoring may show you that you don't have to spray.
- ✓ **Do you have high insect damage in some years and low in others?**
  - ➡ Monitoring will show you if you need to spray.
- ✓ **Do you have insect damage every year?**
  - ➡ Monitoring will show you the best time to spray.

### How Traps Work

A trap has a sticky surface that traps male moths who are attracted to a capsule containing a synthetic version of a female moth pheromone scent. The trap is hung in a blueberry bush that can be checked regularly. See directions on back.



Note: See Cornell Guidelines for other control products.



# Trap Directions



## Placing traps in fields

1. Assemble the trap components, then drop the pheromone lure onto the middle of the sticky trap bottom. Try not to touch the lure with your fingers.
2. Put traps out at the beginning of bloom, and leave them there until you're finished making your cranberry and cherry fruitworm management decisions (usually by mid June).
3. Hang traps 3-4 feet above the ground on a sturdy branch within the blueberry bush.
4. Use 2 traps per 10 acres of blueberries, or one trap for smaller areas.
5. Place traps in the blueberry field in a place convenient to find and check. Marking the end of the row will save you time finding the trap later. Edges of the field tend to catch more moths than the centers. But with our typically small fields in New York, anywhere in the field is close enough to the edge to feel this 'edge effect' and placement within the field is not critical.
6. Use one trap for cranberry fruitworm and a separate one for cherry fruitworm, located a little ways apart.



## Checking the traps

- It is best to check the traps at least twice weekly or every other day when you're looking for the earliest emerging adults. Record trap catches so you can see when peak catch has happened (numbers start declining).
- If you never catch adults: Hurray! Be glad and don't spray for them.
- if you catch adults, you then have to decide whether or not you will spray. The most reliable way to time sprays is to scout for eggs on the newly developing fruit. See Michigan State's Fruitworm fact sheet for scouting details at [www.blueberries.msu.edu/fruitworms.htm](http://www.blueberries.msu.edu/fruitworms.htm).

## U-pick operation

In a U-pick operation, the decision to spray or not depends on your ideology and personal thresholds, as well as an economic threshold.

Correlating damage levels with trap catches has not been done in New York, but the results of our New York State IPM sponsored trapping project in South Central New York in 2006 showed cranberry fruitworm trap catches ranging from 0 to 447 for season totals.

One farm with a 241 catch total and no control measures had about 20 pounds of fruit damaged per acre.

The farm with the highest trap count did spray twice for control and had 7.3 pounds of fruit damaged per acre.

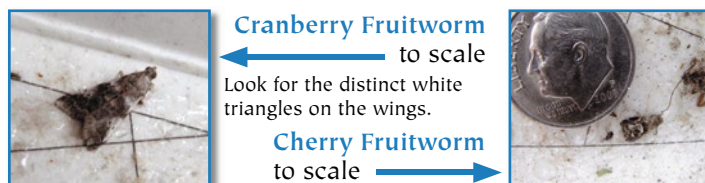
These are results from only one year of trapping and pest pressure varies yearly, so we are cautious about drawing strong conclusions.

## Trapping Supplies

Great Lakes IPM  
10220 Church Road NE,  
Vestaburg, Michigan 48891  
**Phone:** 989-268-5693  
**Fax:** 989-268-5311  
**email:** [glipm@nethawk.com](mailto:glipm@nethawk.com)  
**Website:** <http://www.greatlakesipm.com>

For the South Central New York IPM project in 2006, we used the Wing traps with plastic tops and cardboard liners (the sticky bottom part). Tops are durable and can be saved year-to-year, whereas liners are disposable. Each complete trap costs about \$3.50. Replacement bottoms are about \$0.90 each.

Each moth has its own pheromone lure, costing \$1.50-\$2.00 each. Cranberry fruitworm lures last 4 weeks, Cherry fruitworm lures last 6 weeks. You should only need one per trap per season. When you know what you're looking for, it takes about 10 minutes to walk out into your field and check the trap.



## Non-Pest Specimens

