

Insect pests of flowers

Flower thrips

Thrips can feed on flowers, leaves, and fruit. In blueberry, a few different species cause injury. These insects are active before, during, and after bloom. When they feed on flowers, the damage can cause reduced pollination and poor fruit set. Damaged leaves may become curled and red. Scout for thrips during bloom by tapping flowers onto a white sheet. Split flowers open to look for feeding damage.

Jerry A. Payne, USDA/ARS



Thrips feeding damage affects pollination and yields.



Thrips are elongated with feathery wings. At left, damage to leaves. ■ 2 mm



Jack I. Reed, Mississippi State Univ.