

**Insect pests of fruit**

**Blueberry maggot**

Adult flies are dark and approximately 5 mm in length. The most characteristic feature is the dark pattern on their wings, which can be used to distinguish it from other fruit flies. Flies also have a white spot on the back of the thorax and three (male) or four (female) white bands across the top of the abdomen.



Blueberry maggot flies have a distinctive M shape on each wing.  5 mm

Fly emergence typically starts as midseason varieties (e.g., Bluecrop) start turning blue. Flies feed and mate for 7 to 10 days before females are ready to lay eggs. This insect can be monitored using yellow traps baited with ammonium acetate. Traps should be hung in the top third of bushes without foliage touching them. Traps placed at the field border and interior can identify immigrating and resident fly populations, respectively. Keep traps effective by changing bait regularly.

It is critical to monitor traps to detect and accurately time controls. Fly species identification is important because other flies with similar wing patterns may be caught.



If flies are detected, management is typically required within 7 to 10 days to prevent egg laying in fruit.

Place monitoring traps in the top third of the bush to identify the start of fly emergence.

Eggs are 1 mm long, oval and white, and are laid singly in fruit. Maggots hatch in about 5 days and grow to about 7 mm long inside one berry. Infested berries soon become soft, and shrivelled. Mature larvae drop to the ground, where they burrow into the soil to pupate.



Infested fruit contains a white, legless maggot.  7 mm