

New Jersey Blueberry Growers: 2021 Trial Data



Blueberry anthracnose, *Colletotrichum acutatum*, is the most damaging disease pathogen in eastern highbush blueberry production. Trials were conducted in the 2021 growing season in New Jersey to assess the efficacy of the BVT system against this disease, and this is a recap of the results.

Rutgers University R&D Trial

Rutgers University's Specialty Crop Research and Extension Center and PE Marucci Blueberry Cranberry Research & Extension Center conducted an R&D trial on BVT technology for the 2021 growing season.

The trial was conducted on blueberry crops in three New Jersey locations, and evaluated the efficacy of BVT's proprietary biofungicide, Vectorite™ with CR-7, applied with bee vectoring technology against disease (primarily Anthracnose) under local conditions. Commercially-managed honeybees were used with BVT's natural precision agriculture system. Post-harvest data was collected 10 days after storage, and analyzed by Rutgers researchers.

- Dean Polk

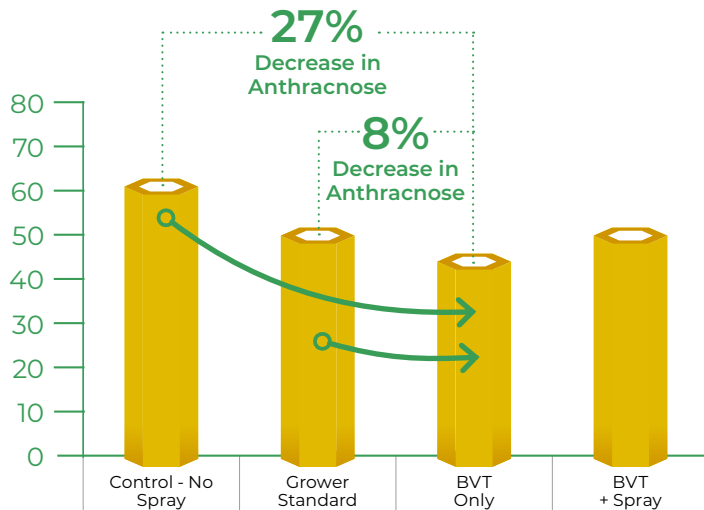
Fruit IPM Agent (Professor) and Interim Director at Rutgers University Specialty Crop Research and Extension Center

“We are pleased to have had the opportunity to study this new technology. Our experience over the past season shows that the technology has promise, and could be instrumental in reducing disease occurrence while maintaining bee health.”

RESULT 1: 8-27% Decrease in Anthracnose Disease

The BVT system alone reduced Anthracnose infection in postharvest berries by 27% compared to the control (no spray) and 8% compared to the grower standard. This indicates the BVT system alone had better disease control than the current grower standard.

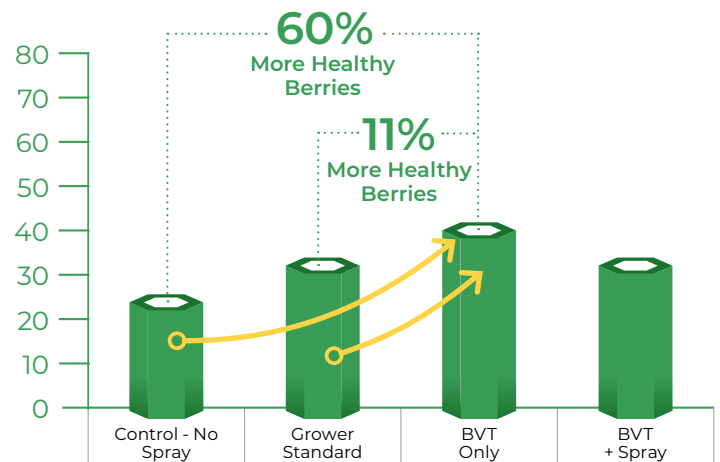
Figure 1: Total Average Anthracnose Infected Berries (%) After 10 Days of Incubation (BVT Honeybee System)



RESULT 2: 11-60% More Marketable, Healthy Berries at Postharvest

The BVT system used alone had more healthy berries 10 days after harvest than a standard program by 11% and 60% more than the control.

Figure 2: Total Average Healthy Berries (%) After 10 Days of Incubation (BVT Honeybee System)



➤ In both cases (Results 1 & 2), BVT's biological fungicide Vectorite with CR-7 used alone showed higher biological efficacy than the conventional (chemical) fungicides.



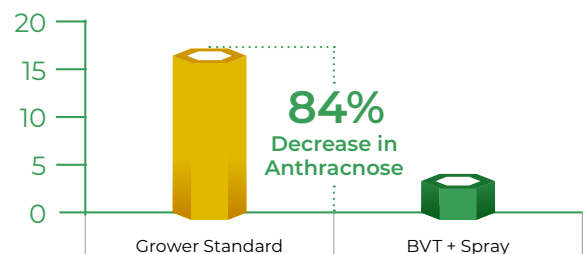
Rutgers University Conventional Grower Demo in New Jersey

Rutgers University also conducted a grower demonstration on a conventional blueberry farm in New Jersey using the BVT bumblebee system.

RESULT: 84% Decrease in Anthracnose Disease

There were much fewer anthracnose infected berries reported with the BVT system used with the standard program, approximately 84% reduction in anthracnose, than just using the conventional standard spray program alone.

Figure 3: Anthracnose Infected Berries (%) After 10 Days of Incubation (BVT Bumblebee System)



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