

Blueberry Certification Program for Export of Fresh Blueberry Fruit to Canada Program Summary

Registration - Growers who wish to participate in the program must submit an application form to the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD) no later than April 15 of each year. Growers are also required to submit Blueberry Maggot Certification Field Inspection Application form for each field.

Approved Growers - All blueberries shipped under the program must originate from a grower approved by USDA & MDARD

Shipping Certificates – Approved growers will be issued sticker certificates. The sticker certificate must be attached to any shipping documents.

Training - Growers are required to participate in training to familiarize them with blueberry maggot biology, identification, field monitoring, cultural and chemical control measures, sample testing and field grading.

Certification Options

Option 1 – IPM Approach

Requires placement and monitoring of Pherocon AM traps in the production area. Traps must be in place 2 weeks before earliest expected emergence. Minimum trap density is 3 traps/field under 5 acres. Fields over 5 acres require additional traps. Traps must be monitored twice a week until all blueberries are harvested or shipping ceases.

Plants must be sprayed within 10 days of finding the first fly in the vicinity of the monitored production area or within 5 days of finding the first fly in the production area. A second spray is required 7-10 days later. Subsequent sprays must be applied within 5 days if another blueberry maggot fly is trapped.

Option B – Calendar-based Pest Control

Fruit not monitored using Pherocon traps may also qualify for export into Canada provided that the first pesticide application was made within 10 days of the detection of blueberry maggot as determined by the MDARD or its designee and subsequent sprays were continued at 7-10 day intervals.

Grading - Harvested fruits must be graded mechanically or by hand to remove soft, shriveled and decayed berries. Fruit must meet US No. 1 or Canada No. 1 grade requirements. MDARD Fruit & Vegetable staff will conduct the grade inspections.

Fruit Sampling and Testing - Before grading, a minimum of 1 two-liter sample must be processed using a standardized USDA boil test to assure absence of blueberry maggot. A sample must be taken from each enrolled field. Sample results are valid for 3 days. If more than 1 maggot is found in the sample, the fresh fruit may not be shipped to Canada under the program.

Record Keeping - Growers must keep records relating to trapping, pesticide applications, cultural measures, fruit sampling and shipping documents.

Audit Inspections - MDARD will monitor the trapping and control program every two weeks to assure compliance.