2023 PEST MANAGEMENT GUIDE: DISEASE

Cultural Disease Management:

Introduction:

This pests management guide is intended to provide a general overview of some of the most common pests that affect blueberries. It includes information on cultural practices, identification of pests, and recommendations for management strategies. The guide is provided as a tool to help growers make informed decisions about pest management, but it is not a substitute for professional advice. Growers should consult with their local extension service or other qualified pest management experts for specific recommendations.

Cultural Practices:

1. **Intercropping:** Intercropping with other crops can help reduce pest populations. For example, planting beans or clover can attract natural enemies that feed on blueberry pests.

2. **Crop Rotation:** Alternating blueberry crops with non-host crops can help reduce pest populations and improve soil health.

3. **Mulching:** Mulching with materials such as wood chips or compost can help suppress weed growth and reduce pest pressure.

4. **Hand Harvesting:** Hand harvesting can help reduce pest populations by removing infected fruit before it can spread disease.

5. **Pruning:** Proper pruning can help reduce pest populations by removing infected or diseased branches and reducing the competition for resources.

6. **Fertilization:** Balanced fertilization can help improve plant health and reduce pest pressure.

7. **Managing Water:** Proper water management can help reduce pest populations by creating a healthy soil environment that supports natural enemies and discourages pest development.

8. **Monitoring:** Regular monitoring can help identify pest problems early and allows for timely control measures.

9. **Neighborhood Management:** Cooperation with neighboring growers can help reduce pest populations by minimizing the movement of pests.

10. **Long-term Planning:** Developing a long-term plan for pest management can help reduce pest populations and improve soil health.

11. **Integrated Pest Management:** Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a holistic approach to pest management that involves using a combination of biological, cultural, and chemical strategies to control pests.

**Pesticide Usage:**

- **Preparation:** Before applying pesticides, it is important to follow all label instructions and to use only products that are registered for use on blueberries in your area.
- **Label Compliance:** Always follow all label instructions and warnings, including application rates, crop and growth stage restrictions, and safety measures.
- **Monitoring:** Regular monitoring can help identify pest problems early and allows for timely control measures.
- **Rotation:** Rotating pesticides can help reduce resistance and increase the effectiveness of control.
- **Press:** Always press the pesticide down onto leaves or fruit when applying to ensure effective coverage.
- **Extension:** Contact your local extension service for specific recommendations.

**Chemical Disease Management:**

Note: This guide is not intended for reading and following the label. It is provided as a supplement to the label and should not be used as a substitute for reading and following the label. Growers should consult with their local extension service or other qualified pest management experts for specific recommendations.

**Fungicides:**

- **Fungicides** are used to control the growth of fungi and fungal-like organisms. They can be applied to the foliage, fruit, or soil to control diseases.

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- **Label Compliance:** Always follow all label instructions and warnings, including application rates, crop and growth stage restrictions, and safety measures.

- **Monitoring:** Regular monitoring can help identify pest problems early and allows for timely control measures.

- **Rotation:** Rotating fungicides can help reduce resistance and increase the effectiveness of control.

- **Press:** Always press the fungicide down onto leaves or fruit when applying to ensure effective coverage.

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