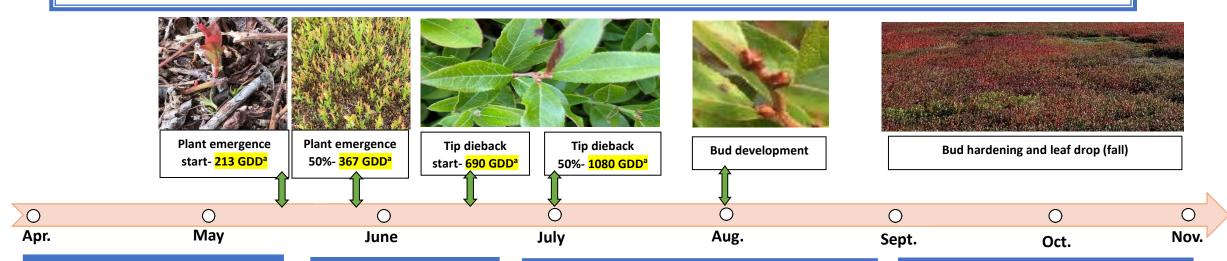
## Nova Scotia Wild Blueberry Prune Year Crop Development Schedule and Management Recommendations

Updated: March 2024



### Early Spring (April to Mid-May):

**Pruning:** mowing or burning can be done in early spring before bud break if pruning is not completed in the fall

**Fertilizer application:** according to soil and tissue analysis, apply fertilizer

**Soil pH management:** granular sulfur application to reduce soil pH and it is recommended to apply sulfur in the spring after pruning and before blueberry leaves emerge. Avoid frozen ground and saturated soil with standing water

Weed control: pre-emergence herbicides can be applied BEFORE the plant emergence starts (before 213 GDD)

### Late Spring (Late-May to June)

Insects: sweep for leaf-feeding insects, such as spanworm and flea beetle if you have pest issues in the past; control as needed

**Weed control:** some selective post-emergent herbicides can be applied after plant emergence to control broadleaf weeds

### Mid to Late Summer (July and Aug.)

**Soil and leaf sampling:** after fields reach more than 70% tip dieback stage, growers can take leaf samples for nutrient analysis and soil samples for pH and organic matter analysis

**Mulch:** applying mulch to bare sports will help wild blueberry plants to spread and suppress weeds

### Weed control:

- Mechanical: pull, mow and cut weeds before they go to seed;
- b. Chemical: apply selective post-emergent herbicides as needed or wipe weeds with nonselective post-emergent herbicides

Leaf disease control: after mid-summer scout and apply leaf disease control products to reduce disease pressures and promote plant health to increase fruit bud number and size. Potentially, more than one application might be needed if the summer and early fall are wetter

## Fall (Sept.- Nov.)

#### Weed control:

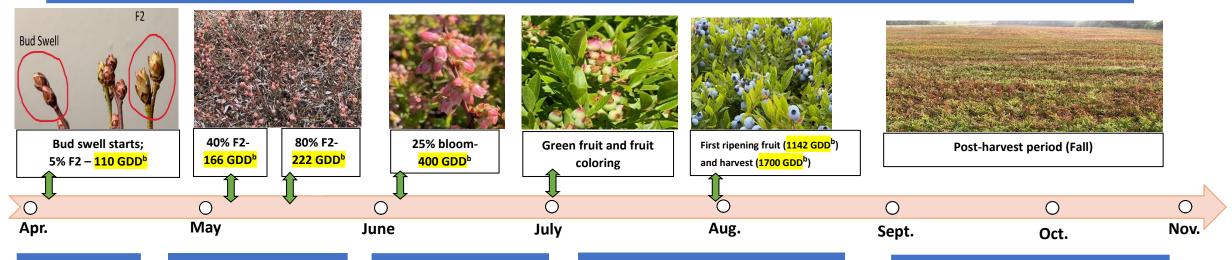
- a. There are limited herbicides to be used at the end of the prune year for broadcast application; hair fescue can be managed by using approved herbicide under the optimum condition
- b. Mechanical weed control for woody weeds
- c. Wipe weeds with nonselective postemergence herbicides

- a. Wild Lowbush Blueberry Growing Degree Days Model (White 2012). GDD thresholds in this guide were updated in March 2024.
- b. The percentage of wild blueberry floral bud F2 stage, bloom stages, ripening fruits and their GDDs were based on multiple years of field data from wild blueberry sites, developed by Perennia's Wild Blueberry Specialist (2024). Research in progress.



## Nova Scotia Wild Blueberry Fruit Year Crop Development Schedule and Management Recommendations

**Updated: March 2024** 



# Late Winter/Early Spring (April):

Assess blueberry stems for winter damage

**Scout** for weeds to determine management plan

## Mid to Late Spring (May)

Monilinia blight control: monitor for F2 stage and apply fungicides after fields reach 40% F2 and before a wet period is forecasted (if fields have a good yield potential and history of blight).

**Weed control:** apply postemergence herbicides<sup>c</sup> to control broadleaf weeds and grasses

## **Early Summer (June):**

**Pollination:** place beehives in fields after 10-20% bloom

Botrytis blight control: weedy fields and those in coastal (wet/fog areas) areas are more prone to botrytis infection. Monitor and apply treatments if needed.

Septoria leaf spot control: monitor and apply treatments if needed.

## Mid to Late Summer (July and August):

Blueberry maggot fly and Spotted Wing Drosophila: place traps in fruit fields to monitor. Apply control products upon reaching economic thresholds. Pay careful attention to preharvest intervals. Around 1142 GDD.

Leaf disease control: Scout fields for disease symptoms on fruits and leaves to evaluate disease management program; poor leaf disease management in the prune year and bloom times of the crop year can lead to early leaf and fruit drops.

Harvest! 1700 GDD.

## Post Harvest (Sept.-Dec.):

**Scout** harvested fields and understand weed composition to inform management planning

**September (1-4 weeks after harvest):** manage for bunchberry control; wipe or spot treat tall perennial weeds, such as goldenrods

**Post-harvest before mowing:** control woody weed species with spot application of non-selective herbicides

**Post-harvest after mowing:** considering applying control for hair fescue, sheep sorrel and moss

- a. Wild Lowbush Blueberry Growing Degree Days Model (White 2012). GDD thresholds in this guide were updated in March 2024.
- b. The percentage of wild blueberry floral bud F2 stage, bloom stages, ripening fruits and their GDDs were based on multiple years of field data from wild blueberry sites, developed by Perennia's Wild Blueberry Specialist (2024). Research in progress.

