

BLUEBERRY (*Vaccinium corymbosum* ‘Bluecrop’)
 Stem blight; *Colletotrichum acutatum* sensu lato
 Stem blight; *Diaporthe* spp.

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Evaluating fungicides for control of stem blight in blueberries, 2023.

The experiment was conducted in a mature blueberry planting at the Southwest Michigan Research and Extension Center (SWMREC) in Benton Harbor, MI. Bushes were spaced at 5 x 10 ft. Treatments were applied to 3-bush plots and were replicated four times in a randomized complete block design. Sprays were applied with a RYOBI ONE+ 18v Cordless Battery 4 Gallon Backpack Chemical Sprayer with the adjustable nozzle. Spray volume was 40 gpa. Spray dates and phenological stages were as follows: 13 April (dormant), 24 April (late green tip), 3 May (late green tip/pink bud), 10 May (pink bud), 22 May (pink bud/petal fall), 6 June (petal fall/green fruit), 14 June (green fruit), and 26 June (green fruit). Total rainfall between sprays was 1.06, 1.72, 0.07, 0.1, 0.02, 0.76, and 0.65 in, respectively. The number of blighted stems was assessed on the middle bush in each plot on 17 July. All bushes were scouted for phytotoxicity throughout the season.

Stem blight pressure was high in this trial as the number of blighted stems per bush in the untreated control was 95.25. Interestingly, season long treatments of Luna Tranquility, Kenja, Quash, Cevya, Indar, and Omega resulted in statistically equivalent number of blighted stems as one dormant application of Sulforix. The industry standard program rotating Indar, Echo, Captan + Elevate, Omega, and Pristine and the standard program with a dormant application of Sulforix both resulted in no blighted stems and provided 100% control.

Treatment, rate/A	Application timing ^z	Number of blighted stems per bush, 17 July	Control [%] ^x
Untreated		95.25 a	
Luna Tranquility 18 floz	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	39.75 b	[58]
Kenja 15.5 floz	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	39.0 b	[59]
Quash 2.5 oz	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	38.3 b	[60]
Cevya 5 oz	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	37.8 b	[60]
Indar 6 floz	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	36.3 b	[62]
Sulforix 1 gal	dormant	35.5 b	[63]
Omega 20floz	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	35.3 b	[63]
Pristine 23 oz	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	28.8 c	[70]
Abound 15.5 floz	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	27.5 c	[71]
Sulforix 1 gal	dormant		
Indar 6 floz	1,		
Echo 720 4 pt	2, 3		
Captan 4L 2.5 qt + Elevate 1.5 lb	4, 5		
Omega 500F 20 floz	6,		
Pristine 23 oz	7	0.0 d	[100]
Indar 6 floz	1,		
Echo 720 4 pt	2, 3,		
Captan 4L 2.5 qt + Elevate 1.5 lb	4, 5,		
Omega 500F 20 floz	6,		
Pristine 23 oz	7	0.0 d	[100]

^z Spray dates: dormant = 13 April (dormant), 1 = 24 April (late green tip), 2 = 3 May (late green tip/pink bud), 3 = 10 May (pink bud), 4 = 22 May (pink bud/petal fall), 5 = 6 June (petal fall/green fruit), 6 = 14 June (green fruit), and 7 = 26 June (green fruit).

^x Bracketed values denote percent control relative to the untreated control.