

Insect pests of leaves and shoots
Obliquebanded leafroller

Various species of leafroller can be found in blue-berry. Obliquebanded leafroller is one of the most damaging leafroller pests of blueberry in eastern North America and can feed directly on fruit.

First-generation larvae are active before and during bloom. Focus scouting on flower buds and look for webbed flowers and leaves. The summer generation larvae are active during fruit ripening, feeding on fruit and foliage. Larvae are green with a dark head and about 25 mm long when fully grown. They feed on flower clusters, leaves, and green fruit. Larvae feed inside webbing used to pull together plant tissues into a protective shelter and may be hard to find.



Obliquebanded leafroller larva on a leaf.

25 mm

Pheromone traps can be used to determine adult emergence. This information can be combined with growing degree days to predict egg hatch, larval development, and optimal timing for control. Timing of treatment may depend on the type of insecticide.

18 mm



Moth wings are banded with tan to brown scales. Moths are about 18 mm long.



Left, leaf feeding injury by oblique-banded leafroller. Right, a larva crawls up a leaf where tip injury is evident.

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Obliquebanded leafroller growing degree day table

GDD° Base 42 (Postbiofix)	Event	Action
Early bloom	Majority of larvae have emerged from shelters	Examine fruit buds for larval activity
0 GDD° = biofix (~900 GDD° after Jan 1)	1 st sustained moth captures	Set GDD° = 0
220-250 GDD°	Peak moth flight - overwintering generation	
400-450 GDD°	Start of egg hatch	Timing for treatment
1000 GDD°	End of egg hatch	
2300 GDD°	Peak moth flight - 2 nd generation	
2750 GDD°	Start of 2 nd generation egg hatch	Timing for treatment

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Other leafrollers

Blueberry is a host plant for other leafroller species, though their injury is typically minimal. Redbanded leafroller larvae may be present as soon as green foliage appears, and this first generation can injure leaves and young clusters. The later generation rarely causes injury. RBLR and other leafrollers are usually controlled by sprays for other pests or by natural enemies.



Redbanded leafroller larvae are green-yellow with a similar colored head capsule and grow to 16 mm long.

 16 mm



Redbanded leafroller moths have distinct red bands on the fore-wings in a V-shape when at rest. Wingspans range from 12 to 18 mm.

 12 mm 18 mm