

2018 Connecticut IPM Report

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It was a wet year with a drought mixed in during mid-summer. The rain still hasn't let up. The heat and high humidity were a constant all summer and into the fall, only subsiding recently.

Diseases:

- Scab was around but not in high amounts.
- Brown rot and bacterial spot was quite prevalent on stone fruit.
- Sooty blotch & fly speck as well as
- Bitter rot were wide spread – every farm was affected. I haven't seen this much bitter rot in years

Insects:

- Apple maggot populations were erratic – high on some farms, very low on others.
- Mite populations were spotty – some usual hotspots had very few while other areas were hammered.
- BMSB populations remained below threshold until mid-August in a traditionally high BMSB block. Other blocks were about on schedule reaching threshold by late August. Overall population numbers were down from previous years and did not sky rocket until mid-September. Perimeter sprays were used and then whole block once BMSB were found within the blocks.
- Good year for codling moth, sawfly, psylla, SWD, Japanese beetle, OFM
- Bees became a serious problem by mid-August in berries and peaches during harvest. PYO customers were complaining. Berries were left unmarketable as the bees would feed on the fruit.

Abiotic:

- July was extremely hot, dry, and sunny which resulted in a lot of heat damage and sunburn on apples.



- Bronzing of peaches was observed on a couple of varieties after they were picked. This physiological disorder is only on the skin but makes the fruit unmarketable. Researchers at Clemson hypothesize that too much water during periods of high transpiration may cause stress in form of water (nutrient?) imbalance to the fastest growing cells of the fruit (equator, top and bottom of fruit) that lead to cell collapse.