

## 2018 INSECT, DISEASE, AND IPM REPORT

Location: Western New York  
Person Reporting: Art Agnello  
Pest Type: Insects and Mites

This was another of those dual-personality growing seasons that New York does so well, and which never fail to irritate those of us who continue to expect the weather to deliver something gradual, normal, not extreme, unremarkable, etc., even though it rarely does so. To start out, the spring took a very long time in arriving, making even the people who are most averse to early warmups show signs of boredom waiting for the trees to start moving. **Most of the state reported the latest green tip date on record; it wasn't reported in Geneva until April 30**, at which time the degree day accumulations were barely half of the long-term average values. Not until the first week of May did the cold and rainy pattern break somewhat to start pushing moths into the air, and by mid-month there were enough erratic temperature jumps to induce bloom in most tree fruit plantings around the state. **June continued the trend of normal- to above-normal temperatures**, with sporadic showers failing to prevent a distinct drying out phase, so that most of the state was in moderate drought conditions by the end of the month. **Periods of high temperatures and low rainfall persisted through most of July, until finally succumbing to the late-summer pattern of pop-up thunderstorms and muggy heat that continued through September.**

The upside of our schizophrenic season was that there was very little in the way of actual drama in either crop or pest development. **Plum curculio** seemed to be addressed adequately and in short order by most growers; outbreaks of European red mite appeared to threaten briefly but then did not amount to much. **Obliquebanded leafroller** was again present as usual, but didn't pose many serious problems in most areas. **Oriental fruit moth** and **codling moth**, the traditional drivers of many insect management programs, occurred **generally on schedule** and in respectable numbers, continuing to fly at normal and even above-normal levels for the remainder of the season. Their trap numbers were impressive through the end of August. First occurrence of **apple maggot** was similarly at a typical timing, thanks to adequate moisture to allow adult emergence from the soil, and continued to be caught at moderate levels into September.

**Populations of scale pests, including both San Jose and Prunicola scale, were noted in several areas of the state, and woolly apple aphid infestations lived up to their potential of becoming problematic in some mid-late season varieties,** both in western NY as well as in the Hudson Valley.

This seems to have been **another notable season for Japanese beetle**, but 2017's unrelenting assault of **spotted wing drosophila** on tart cherries did not recur this year. Also this season, **brown marmorated stink bug** was unaccountably difficult to find until the middle of September, when numbers shot up in the Hudson Valley sites where it's been a frequent challenge, and continued to result in damaged fruit into the October harvest period. Finally, the

perennial **black stem borer** ambrosia beetle, a primary or at least secondary cause of tree decline and death in numerous plantings around the state, continues to be found, and this year exhibited a rare high second brood flight. We are still unable to propose a definitive solution for this pest, and the stress caused by abnormal climatic conditions, as well as other elusive factors, continues to make the case for our attention to how easily these trees can become targets for attack.