

Rhode Island 5-minute report on IPM Progress during FY13

Our most important development was in the area of ASSESSMENT!

In reviewing the IPM programming we have provided over the past 3 decades, our stakeholders have provided us with a highly favorable assessment: they have given us two awards.

Heather Faubert, who has worked with our IPM program since May, 1981 received two major awards from grower groups this year. In the Governor's Office she received an award from the RI Fruit Growers acknowledging her 32 years of support which they noted had reduced their pesticide use by over 50%. She then received a similar award from the RI Nursery/Landscape Association at their annual meeting in January, 2014. Heather knows every tree fruit, small fruit, and vegetable grower in the state and also works with all the commercial nursery producers. Last year she participated in 44 formal meetings as well as countless grower visits - all dedicated to improved IPM activities. Heather has been tireless in supporting the IPM needs of our clients and they clearly appreciate her efforts.

Lisa Tewksbury, a relative newcomer to our IPM program (she started in June, 1985) continues her implementation and educational efforts for IPM programs involving biological control. In addition to 8 educational presentations on implementing biological control, she supervised the rearing and release of biological agents against mile-a-minute vine, lily leaf beetle, purple loosestrife, and swallow-worts. These agents were released in RI, neighboring New England states, and in Canada. We look forward to cooperating with other northeastern states interested in implementing biological control programs against invasive plants and insects.

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