

Items of Mutual Concern for Northeast IPM Coordinators

Pest conditions that warrant regional consideration

R.A. Casagrande, RI IPM Coordinator, January 2017

- 1) Gypsy Moth, Winter Moth, Forest Tent Caterpillar, Brown-tail Moth: We are in the midst of a regional outbreak with sometimes extensive localized defoliation. Conditions are worsened by drought. Working with Rich Cowles (CT Ag. Exp. Stn.) and Joe Elkinton (U. Mass. Entomology) we have developed a coordinated set of management recommendations for S. New England (available from RAC). We are also testing new treatment methods for these lepidopterous defoliators and continuing to release and evaluate the successful biological agents for winter moth.
- 2) Brown Marmorated Stink Bug: We still have very little crop damage and essentially no nuisance problems with BMSB, despite considerable fly-in in recent years. It is not apparent that BMSB will become a pest in RI, possibly regulated by the agents currently reducing populations in NJ and other mid-Atlantic states.
- 3) Spotted-wing Drosophila: a serious pest of late blueberries and raspberries in RI, spotted wing continues to make small fruit IPM extremely challenging. Unsprayed small fruit plantings experience 100% infestation by mid-August.
- 4) Southern Pine Beetle: locally established populations in S. New England declined following the cold winter of 2015-16. It is not apparent how this potentially devastating pest will respond in the future.
- 5) Lily Leaf Beetle: this serious pest of native and cultivated lilies is now established throughout New England and well-into the Mid-Atlantic States. We have established effective biological control agents in Ontario and New England States (Vt – this spring) and preparing to provide agents to NY and WA. Biocontrol agents are available through Lisa Tewksbury (Lisat@uri.edu).
- 6) Swallow-worts: this spring we anticipate releasing new biological agents against these key weed pests of agriculture and managed and natural landscapes in RI, MA, and NY (as we have previously in Ontario). If they prove successful, Lisa Tewksbury will provide these agents in the future.
- 7) Dickeya dianthicola soft rot and blackleg of potato occurred in all RI potato farms again in 2016, and in 15 other states. This bacterial pathogen is carried in infested seed potato, and the vast majority of seed lots which resulted in as much as 40% loss on some farms came from a dozen farms in Maine. URI is well networked with plant pathologists throughout the Northeast, and we are advising growers using a set of BMPs adopted by all states seeing this problem. Andy Radin (andy_radin@uri.edu) is coordinating our response to this disease of importance throughout the region.