

## **Connecticut IPM Program Report, March 2018**

### **Donna Ellis, IPM Program Coordinator**

The Connecticut IPM Program 2017 Annual Report, IPM fact sheets, and other information are available on the UConn IPM website ([www.ipm.uconn.edu](http://www.ipm.uconn.edu)).

#### **Funding**

- The Connecticut IPM Program is funded in part by USDA (NIFA CPPM EIP, NIFA BFRDP, APHIS, RMA, SARE, and SCBG), the Northeastern IPM Center (NEIPMC), CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), CT Department of Agriculture, and the University of Connecticut.

#### **Team members**

- **University of Connecticut (UConn):** The 9-member IPM Program team includes Donna Ellis (IPM Program Coordinator), Joan Allen, Candace Bartholomew, Jude Boucher (retired), Alejandro Chiriboga (no longer with UConn), Mary Concklin, Ana Legrand, Leanne Pundt, and Victoria Wallace in the Department of Extension and the Department of Plant Science & Landscape Architecture.
- **Partners/Collaborators:** State and Federal agricultural and environmental/non-governmental agencies and organizations; State, New England, and Northeastern fruit, greenhouse, grounds keepers, nursery, turf, landscape, and vegetable associations; industry suppliers/dealers; regional universities; educators; schools and municipalities; individual growers, farmers, and producers; Master Gardeners; and the general public.

#### **Issue**

- Integrated Pest Management applies multiple tactics in a variety of settings through the selection of appropriate tools and the education of agricultural industry members and Connecticut citizens to provide sustainable, science-based approaches for the management of plant pests (insects, mites, diseases, wildlife, and weeds, including invasive plants). The UConn IPM Program incorporates all possible pest management strategies through knowledgeable decision making, utilizing the most efficient landscape and on-farm resources, and integrating cultural and biological controls. Program objectives include maintaining the economic viability of agricultural and green industry businesses, enhancing and conserving environmental quality and natural resources, educating participants on the effective use of biological control agents, and educating pesticide users about the safe use and handling of pesticide products.

#### **Accomplishments**

- IPM Program team members conducted intensive on-site educational training for fruit and vegetable producers, garden center owners, greenhouse growers, nursery producers and retailers, and turf and landscape professionals. Growers and green industry professionals received information on the current status of and recommendations for important plant pests and training via pest messages, email alerts, webinars, newsletters, articles in national trade journals, management guides, websites, social media, consultations and counseling via phone, site visits to their operations, workshops, conferences, exhibits, and short courses.
- **Evaluations:** IPM programs were evaluated by the following methods: pre- and/or post-program surveys and evaluations, needs assessment surveys, focus groups, key informant interviews, testimonials, and unsolicited comments.

## Connecticut IPM Outcomes

- The UConn IPM Program Team was honored to have been selected as the recipient of the **2017 UConn Provost's Team Award for Excellence in Public Engagement**. The IPM Team was recognized at the Excellence in Public Engagement ceremony and reception, which was held on November 14, 2017 at the UConn Storrs campus and hosted by Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Jeremy Teitelbaum. IPM team members developed a poster of program accomplishments, which was displayed at the reception and in the Connecticut Legislative Office Building during January 2018.
- A total of 29 IPM projects targeting fruit, vegetables, greenhouse and nursery crops, landscapes and turf, invasive plants, school grounds, plant diagnostics, and pesticide safety education were conducted by the IPM Program Team during 2017.
- Major conferences and workshops developed and presented by the IPM Team included the Native Plants and Pollinators Conference; the Connecticut Vegetable & Small Fruit Growers' Conference; a Biological Control Workshop for Greenhouse Growers; four Pest Management Workshops for Greenhouse Crops, Nursery Crops, Vegetables, and Fruit; a School IPM Workshop; and a Respirator Fit Testing Workshop.
- The UConn Extension YouTube video published in May 2017 highlights the Extension Agriculture Team, including members of the UConn IPM Program. The video can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ShdG8xL90kw>.
- There were 102,823 sessions created by 86,110 users of the [IPM website](#) during 2017, representing 135,989 page views. IPM website sessions in 2017 increased 25% over the previous year.
- During 2017, 763 plant pest samples were diagnosed, and management recommendations were provided to IPM Program participants and other stakeholders.
- A total of 208 invasive plant activities in 44 Connecticut towns reached over 30,000 Connecticut citizens in 2017, including agency and municipal staff. A minimum of 7,950 hours was provided through intensive invasive plant training sessions and management activities, as well as brief technical educational outreach.
- Two intensive, team-taught short courses providing active training time of 1,488 hours were conducted for 62 individuals seeking initial state certification as commercial Ornamental and Turf or Golf Course Superintendent pesticide applicators.
- A total of 2,095 pesticide applicators and occupational users and consumers were provided with training on the safe use and handling of pesticide products, including those who earned pesticide recertification credits. Approximately 1,683 non-certified people received pesticide safety training.
- In the past year, 16 programs for private pesticide applicators were held, training 1,066 individuals, and providing recertification credits for 412 applicators. Additionally, 167 Master Gardeners received pesticide safety and Integrated Pest Management education. A total of 450 Master Gardeners received advanced special topics diagnostic and pest management training.

## Comments from IPM Program Participants

“We trust Mary Concklin’s findings as she is very knowledgeable and communicates very well while teaching us.” “I couldn’t have done it without you this year. My sincerest thanks. I look forward to working with you next year.”

- *Comments to Mary Concklin regarding the UConn Fruit IPM Program*

“WOW great meeting! All the speakers had items coordinated with each other. It was the best meeting I have been at in a long time. As always you do a great job!”

- *Comments from Connecticut Pomological Society Meeting attendees*

“Since founding Canterbury Horticulture almost 20 years ago, we have relied on the UConn extension service to provide us with help diagnosing and treating pest and disease outbreaks in our nursery numerous times. They have been an invaluable resource for green industry companies in Connecticut.”

- *Todd Burnett, Owner, Canterbury Horticulture, Canterbury, CT*

“Each time I leave one of your IPM days or your twilight sessions, I am invigorated by things I learn, or information that I knew somewhere in the back recesses of my mind, but which lays latent, until it is fed and watered by your initiative.”

- *Greg Foran, Parks Superintendent and Tree Warden, Town of Glastonbury, commenting on School IPM Workshop*

“This program is an invaluable tool for growers in insect ID, scouting techniques, the latest control methods both biological and chemical, and even cultural methods that lead to crop problems. Both experienced and new growers can benefit from this program. Major and minor crops here have benefitted and in some cases saved by the knowledge and expertise of Leanne Pundt.”

- *Barbara Pierson, Nursery Manager, White Flower Farm, Morris, CT*

“Was one of the best conferences I have been to in a long time!” “Speakers were awesome!” “I thought today’s program was great: very useful and informative.”

- *Comments from Greenhouse Disease Management Program attendees*

“Instructors were very knowledgeable. Information presented in organized fashion.” “Availability of hands-on learning, actually handling equipment and excellent knowledge of presenters. Very Helpful!”

- *Comments from Respirator Fit Testing Workshop attendees*

“Thank you. That you believe in me and are willing to put in your time to help me develop means so much to me. You have truly made an incredibly positive difference in my life and I will always be thankful.”

- *Alyssa Matz, UConn undergraduate student and Holster Scholar recipient who conducted an invasive plant project, mentored by Donna Ellis*