Rhode Island IPM Program Report, March 2018

Heather Faubert and Lisa Tewksbury, Program Co-Coordinators

URI Dept. of Plant Science and Entomology

Team: Richard Casagrande, Heather Faubert, Lisa Tewksbury

Accomplishments:

- Heather Faubert gave 9 presentations to 600 individuals about ornamental pests, groups included members of the RI Nursery and Landscape Association, Master Gardeners, and the general public.

- Heather Faubert gave 16 newspaper interviews and 8 Television or Radio interviews about caterpillars (winter moth, forest tent, and gypsy moths), providing information to avoid unnecessary pesticide applications by allowing biological controls to manage caterpillar outbreaks and to apply least-harmful insecticides to a limited number of high-value trees.

- Information about caterpillar outbreaks was also provided in articles written for the RI Nursery and Landscape Association Newsletter and RI Christmas Tree Growers Association.

- Heather Faubert and Lisa Tewksbury assisted RI Dept. of Environmental Management in creating a website to educate the public about gypsy moths in RI (dem.ri.gov/programs/forestry/gypsy-moths/).

- The URI Plant Clinic received 300 plant and insect samples, and 200 were from landscapes

- Lisa Tewksbury and Richard Casagrande gave general IPM and entomology talks, updates on exotic insects, and updates on biological control research and implementation in 18 presentations to 1,038 individuals.

- RI fruit growers were provided with Tree Fruit and small fruit IPM information through 6 fruit grower meetings, 10 newsletters (web.uri.edu/ipm/), and hundreds of emails, phone calls and onsite farm visits.

- RI fruit growers used Ag Radar to help make IPM decisions.

- Seven RI tree fruit growers received daily SkyBit weather emails to aid in IPM decisions.

- 95% of IPM meeting attendees reported increasing their IPM knowledge, and that they would implement changes to their farming practices based on what they learned at a meeting.

- URI's biological control program was featured in an article in Rhode Island Monthly, "On the Job with URI's Pest Patrol"; readership of 166,000

- Educational programs were conducted for vegetable growers, grape growers, Christmas tree growers, and small fruit growers

- We are starting to find establishment of *Cyzenis albicans*, a biological control agent of winter moth. This program is being run in collaboration with Joe Elkinton of UMASS. *Cyzenis albicans* was released in eight locations in RI from 2011 to 2017, and flies have now been recovered in three of these release sites.

- URI received a permit to release *Hypena opulenta*, a biological control agent of swallow-worts in August, 2017. Releases were made in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. There is a large interest in this project with stakeholders in RI and throughout the Northeast.

- The lily leaf beetle biological project collaborated with New York and Connecticut to release lily leaf beetle parasitoids. There are plans to include Washington state and Vermont in the future. This program receives many emails from stakeholders indicating an interest in participation in this project.

- The biological control of Phragmites project has progressed to the point of submitting a petition for release for two biological control agents; both moth species.

- URI released 5,500 *Rhinoncomimus latipes* weevils, a biological control agent of Mile-a-minute in RI in 2017. We also released 2,355 *Larinus obtusus* in RI, which is a biological control agent of knapweed.