

Small Fruit IPM Working Group and Pest Issues Tour Priorities
October 1, 2, 3, 2013
Lake Morey Inn, Fairlee, VT
Ann Hazelrigg, Chair

Extension Priorities

- ***Pest Management Strategic Plans**-These have not be updated for years and members found these very useful/helpful in making recommendations, etc. The working group discussed starting with the strawberry PMSP, since this crop has not been done for several years and many new developments have occurred such as the increase in growing day neutral plants (more susceptible to SWD since they are produced later in the season), new cultivars with varying issues, new growing systems, emerging pests and disease problems such as cyclamen mite, anthracnose, SWD, etc.
- ***Spotted Wing Drosophila Coordination**-mechanism is needed for information sharing among states. Maybe this could be housed at the NE IPM center or through Google docs. This would allow easy access to current trapping data/bait info for each state on an on-going basis.
- Resistance Management for fungicides, insecticides and herbicides.
- List of biorational pesticides and efficacy.
- Organic working group-The current working group is nationwide but there is desire for a regional working group with more appropriate crops, insect, weed and disease issues.
- Pruning basics-We found each grower on our tour (and other growers in each of our states) was doing an inadequate job of pruning blueberries and did not realize the economic importance of this practice, i.e., improved synchronization of ripening, improved air and light penetration and improved spray penetration of fungicides, insecticides. This will be highlighted in our winter meetings, in newsletters and through Maine's You Tube clips on correct pruning.
- Bird and SWD netting in blueberries-Efficacy, costs, etc.
- Use of You Tube to get across various points in IPM in small fruits. Pruning, strawberry systems, etc.

Bold *-top priorities in group

Research Priorities

- ***Black root rot complex in strawberry/nematodes**-Each of the 4 farms we visited for the 2013 tour had major issues with this complex. We questioned the unknown role of nematodes in the fields as contributors to the fungal impacts. Another contributing factor may be that strawberry breeding has moved away from disease-resistance breeding due to retirements of researchers with plant breeding expertise.
- Weed science in small fruits-Huge vacuum.
- Fungicide efficacy.
- Summary of strawberry systems-Crop profiles and Pest Management Strategic Plans (PMSP).

Regulatory Priorities

- ***Pursue Apogee getting submitted to EPA.**