

2013 Fruit Report for New Hampshire

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Weather and crop situation:

Late spring and early summer were especially rainy. Summer was relatively warm, relatively wet (except for northwest parts of the state in August). NASS has not computed the size of the NH crop (budget sequestration) but it may be about 492,000 bushels. The peach crop was very good. Strawberries: good crop, but challenges with rain during harvest. Cherries: significant losses to brown rot and rain cracking. Blueberries: good crop, with (apparently) lower losses to spotted wing drosophila than last year. Hail injury to apples was 2.37% this year, below the 25 year average of 3.35%. There was a slightly higher than average incidence of fruit russet and frost patch on apples (and pears) this year.

Fruit Pest Situation this Year

2013 was the year of the weed. We had serious problems in most annual crops, plus many perennials as well. Abundant rainfall was a contributor.

Grape tumid gall was very serious at one Hillsborough county vineyard, on Vanessa or Marquis seedless grapes. All clusters are ruined. There 10 to 20 vines of this variety, and other varieties are not showing the problem as much.

One Hillsborough county highbush blueberry planting had significant infestation by Putnum scale, *Diaspidiotus ancylus* (Putnum). It may have been there a long time, unnoticed by previous managers.

Potato leafhopper, *Empoasca fabae* (Harris), arrived relatively early and was in high numbers this year. Damage was easy to find in apples, and it was common on raspberries, beans, potato.

The incidence of pest injury on apples at harvest time was 7.6% in 2013. That's well above the 25 year average of 5.28%. The incidence of apple scab [caused by *Venturia inaequalis*] on fruit at harvest was 4.26% this year, the highest in my 34 years of records. Bitter rot was relatively scarce this year. The incidence of flyspeck was very close to the 25 year average, but the incidence of sooty blotch was above the 25-year average. Powdery mildew symptoms were visible on apple shoots at some orchards. Usually, powdery mildew is hard to find in New Hampshire apples.

Brown rot was common on stone fruit this year, and severe at some sites.

Mummyberry (caused by *Monilinia vaccinii-corymbosi*) was fairly bad in some blueberry plantings this year. The rain and warmth were not quite at the right time to get botrytis rot of many blueberry flowers.

New/Unusual:

Where are the wasps and hornets? This year's peach and apple picking was less stressful, since bald-faced hornets seemed to be in low numbers, and yellow jacket colonies were really scarce. Since most of our (9 species) yellow jackets in NH nest in the ground, wet late spring/early summer soils may have caused a lot of colony failures.

Cecropia moth (*Hyalophora cecropia* (L)) caterpillars were much more common than usual this year. This year, few were reported on apple trees. Most were found on blueberry foliage.

Deer browsing on tree fruit was so bad at the UNH Woodman Farm in early spring, the Dean approved an 8 foot perimeter fence around the entire farm. The 5 foot electric fence had performed relatively well (18 years?) until now.

Spotted wing Drosophila (*Drosophila suzukii*). We set out most of our SWD traps June 25-30th this year. Most traps were in Hillsborough, Rockingham, Strafford, Grafton and Merrimack counties, with one site each in Carroll and Sullivan counties. In 2012 we had our first trap captures July 11th. This year the first capture was on July 2. This year we made visual changes to the traps, modified their placement, and modified the bait. We used the modified red solo cup trap that CT & RI colleagues perfected, with a series of small holes near the top, and a black band of tape near the top. We used the same liquid bait as last year (grape juice/apple cider vinegar/ethanol, but this year added insert cups that contained flour/oil/yeast/water bait. We also ensured that traps were buried in foliage, not exposed. Unlike last year, this year's bait/trap/placement procedures seemed to give good results for predicting the need to treat. Our cherry and "June" strawberry crops were unaffected by SWD. Blueberries, brambles, plums seem to have been significantly attacked, beginning a 5-7 days earlier than in 2012. As last year, traps in shrubs & trees in wooded field edges were the first to detect SWD's, and trapped the most, by far.

New IPM publications this year:

Eaton, A. T. 2013. Managing Voles in New Hampshire Orchards and Highbush Blueberries. 11 pp. [posted October 3, 2013]

http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource003424_Rep4893.pdf

Eaton, A. T. 2013. Magnifiers and Other Visual Aids for Insect Monitoring. 3pp*. [posted Sept 2013]

http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource003343_Rep4814.pdf