

Rhode Island - Heather Faubert, Cooperative Extension

I spent so little time in orchards in 2017 for various, uninteresting reasons. RI apple and peach crop turned out fine without me! RI growers need better weather on weekends. It was either rainy or beach weather most weekends in September and October. Extreme heat (15 days in September in 80s) caused many apples to drop early.

RI's biggest **Honeycrisp** grower complained about cracked fruit. He thinks it may be related to using Apogee. Or boron deficiency. Any thoughts? Cracking started in August and continued through September.



Winter moth, which has plagued RI growers since 2005, is finally settling down. Joe Elkinton from UMass thinks our populations will remain low. Growers will still need to control winter moth, but hopefully spray once at tight cluster rather than 3-4 prebloom insecticide sprays starting at green tip - which is what many have been doing for years.

I've been monitoring winter moth egg hatch each spring by setting up tree wraps in November which encourages female winter moths to lay eggs under tree wraps. Then volunteers watch for egg hatching in spring.



Also, parasitic fly, *Cyzenis albicans* has been released in 8 locations in RI - over 50 in New England - and starting to provide control.

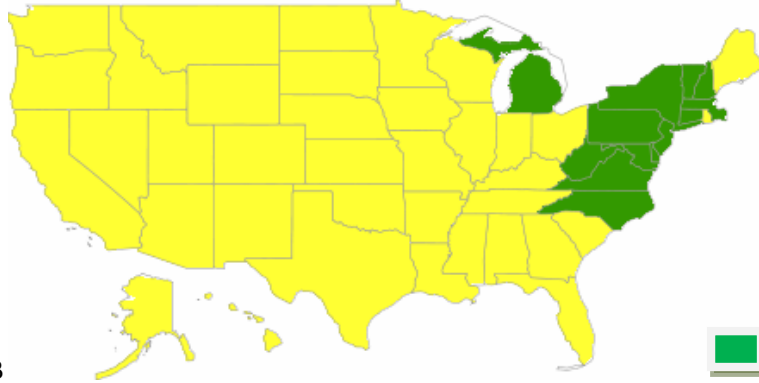
Gypsy moth populations crashed in 2017 - after 3 years of populations not seen since the early 80s. Some orchards and blueberry growers were hit hard by gypsy moths in 2015, 2016 and 2017. Population crash thanks goes to *Entomophaga maimaiga*.




Forest tent caterpillars populations were high too in 2016 and 2017. Between winter moths, gypsy moths, and forest tent caterpillars I've been MS Caterpillar!

Codling moths troublesome in a couple of orchards. I think population built up in 2016 when drought encouraged growers to spread out spray intervals. How well does CM mating disruption work? Looking forward to our discussion on mating disruptions.

My big accomplishment for the year was helping get legislation passed in the RI General Assembly. Many products have not been registered in RI because of the tiny marketability for some pesticides, especially mating disruption products. Companies like Pacific Biocontrol Corporation have refused to pay the \$200 per product registration fee. The new legislation allows fees to be waived if it is approved by the director of RI Department of Environmental Management as a minor use product.



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