

## 2014 INSECT, DISEASE, AND IPM REPORT

Location: Western New York

Persons Reporting: Art Agnello, Dave Kain

Pest Type: Insects and Mites

This year was another of those seasons that seemed to have a bipolar personality, as even now it's continuing to demonstrate an inability to settle into a single trend for very long. We started out waiting quite an extended time for spring weather to actually arrive, as recurring cold temperatures following our 'respectable' NY winter created much uncertainty about when the season was really on track to start, and late freezes took their toll on many peach and other stone fruit plantings, as well as selected apple varieties. Some warm spells in late June and late July never seemed to take hold for long, and the precipitation pattern was a patchwork of severe downpours and soakers offset by dry, sun-baked stretches. On the plus side, the cooler night temps helped fruit color, and of course the abundant rain contributed to good size, so overall, we ended up with a pretty good apple crop from this harvest.

Once again, insect pests were not too rampant, although a number of them needed some extra attention, as is common. The rainy early season help to keep down **mite** numbers until about midsummer, when some blocks ran into population blow-ups. For another year, **San Jose scale** infestations were a common concern, along with **woolly apple aphid**, both of which are notable for being old nemeses with impressive staying power; these ended up being particularly problematic late in the season as harvest progressed. **Codling moth** and **oriental fruit moth** continued to be important drivers of many insect management programs, particularly in Western NY, and **apple maggot** kept rolling along for weeks with some very high trap numbers into September. Contrary to our expectations, **Brown marmorated stink bug** had a delayed year in the Hudson Valley, and was nearly absent altogether in the rest of the state. **Spotted wing drosophila** continued as a more universal, and urgent, concern, still mostly for berry growers; our cherry and peach plantings benefitted from this species' late arrival this year. More worrisome was **black stem borer**, the ambrosia beetle that has been found as the cause of tree decline and death in numerous plantings around the state, and for which we have precious little information so far about appropriate control measures. Doubtless this will be the topic of much discussion during the winter months.