

## 2016 INSECT, DISEASE, AND IPM REPORT

Location: Western New York  
Person Reporting: Art Agnello  
Pest Type: Insects and Mites

We started out this year with some wary observations about the oddly warm winter weather and its anticipated impact on orchard insects, and it seems that this was destined to be one of those seasons where the weather superceded most other things capable of influencing fruit and tree health, including insects. A cold and rainy late March and early April (with some obligatory single-digit plunges that took out most of our peaches and abused several apple varieties) transitioned into irregular May weather patterns, but by the end of the month we were already running a rainfall deficit and the temperatures were starting to mimic the southeastern states; things didn't revert to "NY normal" until fall.

As often happens during variable petal fall periods, **plum curculio** posed something of a challenge around the state, with some growers unable to beat the beetles to the fruitlets on the front end, and not always protecting them long enough at the end of the egg-laying period. **Codling moth** and **oriental fruit moth**, the internal leps that have established themselves as primary drivers of many insect management programs, were initially somewhat delayed in their normal mid-May appearance, but soon reached their normal flight patterns in June and required the typical level of attention we've come to expect. **Obliquebanded leafroller** was present as usual, but didn't appear to pose too many real problems in most areas. Predictably, mites responded to the continued high temperatures with outbreaks of both **European red mites** and **twospotted spider mites** reported in various sites. **Apple maggot** was somewhat delayed in its normal first occurrence, probably owing to the dry soil conditions, but continued to fly and generate some concern well into September. **Brown marmorated stink bug** was essentially a no-show for most of the season, but in mid-August began showing up in traps near some western NY packinghouses, and in September weekly trap catches were exceeding 200, comprising both adults and early instar nymphs, posing the question of whether this represented a second generation, or just protracted development of the first brood. A low level of stink bug damage was documented in a Cameo planting west of Rochester, but the species responsible could not be determined.

Some of our major-minor pests, like **San Jose scale** and **woolly apple aphid**, did show up here and there, but their level of severity appeared not to be very high this season. Some normally marginal species, like **apple leafcurling midge** and **Japanese beetle**, caught the attention of observers in various plantings, which doesn't happen regularly, but this season was anything but regular. Finally, there was continued concern this year over the troublesome **black stem borer**, an ambrosia beetle that has been found as the cause of tree decline and death in numerous plantings around the state. Regrettably, we don't appear to be any closer to finding a good solution to this problem, and the stress caused by drought conditions this year has only heightened our awareness of how easily stressed trees can become targets for attack.