

## 2017 INSECT, DISEASE, AND IPM REPORT

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

With a less-than-frigid winter behind us, the expectation for this year was naturally for relatively moderate and maybe even warm summer weather during the growing season, and for the first few months, we actually did manage to stay within view of the long-term average temperatures, so tree development through May was generally comparable to the most recent 5-year average. However, frequent rains during the period delayed field work and affected pest development accordingly (favorable for scab, not so much for insects and mites). By mid-May, the entire state was officially out of its previous drought status, but the wet weather continued into June and July, which made it hard to tell whether we were ever going to see any "real" summer conditions. As of mid-July, we were as much as 150 DD behind our 15-year average degree day levels, a trend that continued through September.

True to most NY springs, **plum curculio** posed something of a challenge around the state, with some growers unable to beat the adults to the fruitlets on the front end, and not always protecting them long enough at the end of the egg-laying period. **Oriental fruit moth** and **codling moth**, the traditional drivers of many insect management programs, occurred generally on schedule in early and late May, respectively, and continued to fly at normal levels for the remainder of the season. **Obliquebanded leafroller** was again present as usual, but didn't seem to pose many serious problems in most areas. Predictably, mites responded to the wet conditions by occurring only at low numbers, if at all. **Apple maggot** was somewhat delayed in its normal first occurrence, probably because too much soil moisture promotes disease attacks in the pupae, but continued to be caught at moderate levels in most parts of the state through September. Scale pests, including not only **San Jose** but also **Prunicola scale**, required diligent attention in several areas of the state, but we didn't see too much in the way of **woolly apple aphid** infestations.

This seems to have been a season for greater than normal numbers of **Japanese beetle** and **potato leafhopper**, but the breakout pest problem of the year was undeniably **Spotted wing drosophila**, which showed up earlier than usual (mid-June) and was therefore able to zero in on tart cherries and even sweet cherries still on the trees. Many plantings were decimated, and hundreds of loads were rejected. Also this year, **brown marmorated stink bug** started showing up in WNY traps much earlier in the season, with moderate but regular numbers of adults being caught as early as May. Also, we caught nymphs in fairly high numbers, which could indicate a greater potential for late season apple damage in this part of the state; in contrast, numbers in the Hudson Valley were somewhat lower than usual.

Finally, the troublesome **black stem borer** ambrosia beetle, a primary or at least contributing cause of tree decline and death in numerous plantings around the state, continues to be a problem. A definitive solution for this pest is yet to be found, and the stress caused by wet conditions this year following the drought conditions last year makes the case for our continued awareness of how easily these trees can become targets for attack.