2018 western New York apple/pest highlights -

- **Weather** — Unusually hot and dry in western NY for most of the season — nearly opposite of the cool and wet 2017 season. Fortunate mid-August rains of 5-8” saved the day — but early varieties often size-challenged. Temperature-wise — June was like July, July was like July, August was like July, and September was like August. WNY harvest will finally wind down by about 11/03 - 11/10.

- **Pest management program costs** — Fewer primary scab sprays than normal — due to rapid pre-bloom tree growth and only 6 primary infection periods. But this was offset by more later sprays than normal for insect pests well into September — vs. woollies, internal worms, and in a few cases stink bugs.

- **Apple scab control** — Moderate primary scab pressure — generally low secondary scab and summer disease pressure. The gap in scab control between captan and mancozeb continues to widen . . .

- **Fire blight control** — Light fire blight pressure — very little blight observed. Integrating SARs into integrated fire blight control programs continues to look great in apple nurseries and on high-risk varieties (Koru, NY2, and Gala). Very little hail compared to 2017 . . .

- **Internal worms (IW)** — VERY high late season pressure (trap counts) — but so far, few serious issues.

- **San Jose Scale (SJS)** — **VERY high pressure.** Many new SJS hotspots in previously clean orchards despite dormant chlorpyrifos use. Esteem and Centaur performed very well. (No dormant oil used)

- **Woolly apple aphids (WAA)** — **Higher WAA pressure than normal** — especially in mature high-density M9 plantings (especially Fuji, Empires). Movento at 1st cover continues to perform VERY well vs. WAA.

- **Mites** — Variable mite pressure despite hot and dry conditions. Very low Agri-Mek pricing continues to make it pretty challenging for growers to practice good resistance management programs.

- **Potato leafhopper (PLH)** — Typically high PLH pressure — but remains very easy to control.

- **Black stem borer (BSB)** — There seems to be somewhat fewer problem blocks — but traps catch BSB adults pretty much all season long.

- **SWD ??** — Where did it go in 2018? No issues at all vs. 2017 problems. Our own trap counts (20+ traps) remained quite low until very late sour cherry season. Likely
controlled by hot dry 2018 weather, Imidan, and Danitol. We could use a more efficient, less tedious SWD monitoring system.

- **BMSBug** — BMSB becoming **MUCH** more commonplace in western NY — exacerbated by ever-increasing soybean acreage bordering apples in WNY. BMSB numbers high in late September — early October resulting in some late sprays. Tons of BMSB adults infiltrating homes etc. on unusually warm 80°F mid-October days. We expect to see at least some “surprise” fruit injury out of storage . . . **BMSB in 2019??**
- **Chlorpyrifos future??** — Aging chemistry steadily becoming weaker in dormant sprays vs. SJS & WAA — but it may be missed vs. black stem borer??

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