

## 2013 INSECT, DISEASE, AND IPM REPORT

Location: Western New York

Persons Reporting: Art Agnello, Dave Kain

Pest Type: Insects and Mites

Most people in the fruit business were frankly a little apprehensive about what to expect from this season. After 2012, there was a sense that anything was possible, particularly scenarios that had a greater resemblance to some of the southeastern states than to the good old (if non-standard) New York summers of legend and common lore. Even as the spring proceeded to unwind in a slow, gradual, and even boring sequence of non-dramatic crop & pest development stages, there remained a tendency to glance over one's shoulder to be sure nothing was sneaking up on us. We had all heard the worries over 'light' control programs last year, pests that had had extra flights, and then cold-but-not-epic winter temperatures, all of which could have presaged a monumental insect resurgence this year. Nonetheless, the prebloom period was cool and not too rainy, bloom was abundant, pollination weather generally acceptable, and fruit set proceeded with relatively few frost or hail events being reported. Early season pests seemed to have slept in, and we somehow reverted to business as usual, just another "normal" NY growing season.

Which is to say that the version of normal that we experienced this year was of the a-bit-too-much-rain and not-enough-heat variety, so that real summer temperatures didn't occur until July, and then retreated for the next 6 or 8 weeks. The insect pests, fortunately, did not explode, although they weren't actually absent. We hardly saw any **mites**, or **pear psylla**, or **plum curculio**; however, **San Jose scale** infestations were a common sight, as well as **potato leafhopper**, **woolly apple aphid**, and of course the internal lep brigade. **Codling moth** and **oriental fruit moth** did not overrun the countryside, but they were out there in all the usual spots, the same as **leafrollers**. **Apple maggot** took its time in emerging, but seemed to have another extended season of occurrence this year.

Not surprisingly, more time and attention seems to have been directed this year at our two invasive species, a phenomenon that should probably be taken as a sign of things to come. **Brown marmorated stink bug** finally began showing up in traps in western NY this year, albeit in low, sporadic numbers, although the new-this-year availability of the true pheromone lures could have played a part. More eastern NY sites experienced fruit damage this year, including further north into Columbia Co., so we expect this trend to continue going forward. **Spotted wing drosophila** has become a more universal, and urgent, concern, although mostly for berry growers; our cherry and peach plantings seem to have escaped any notable damage this time, but next season could be different if the fly's first occurrence date continues to advance each year. Finally, a number of normally very attentive apple growers were unpleasantly surprised to find wilting and dying trees in some of their best dwarf plantings; nearly all were associated with fire blight symptoms, but the disturbing discovery – in distinctly different parts of the region – of a previously unseen ambrosia beetle in the trunks (*Xylosandrus germanus*, the so-called **black stem borer**), created a mystery that we're still trying to decide how to address.