

Vermont IPM Program - FY2004

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Programs: Apples, Greenhouse Ornamentals, Field Corn, Vegetable & Berry, School, and Grape IPM

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Highlights/Impacts

- Apple IPM program was selected as one of five College of Agriculture and Life Science's programs acknowledged as being relevant and important to Vermonters. It was featured in *IMPACT* (a publication of the University of Vermont Extension System and Vermont Agricultural Experiment Station) and at the 13th Annual Vermont Agricultural Experiment Station and UVM Extension Reception for the Governor and State Legislators at the Vermont State House.
- A major benefit of the Vermont Field Corn IPM program is awareness of the Northern and/or Western corn rootworm and how to manage it in an effective and sustainable manner. According to the 2004 Corn Rotation Survey, 84% of the farmers said they were familiar with the Northern and Western corn rootworm beetles. This was about 13% points higher than the year before when a similar survey was conducted. In a pest management survey conducted as part of the Vermont Field and Forage Crops IPM program (n=62), 51% of the farmers responding indicated that they "scouted" their cornfields for Northern and/or Western Corn Rootworm in 2004 (representing approximately 59% of the corn acreage). About 46% of those looked for plant visual signs such as goosenecking or root pruning and 27% of the respondents scouted for adult beetles (a more accurate method) in order to make decisions about the next growing season.
- We continue to develop and maintain a School IPM website for Vermont school administrators, teachers, facilities managers, families and parents. The site provides current IPM information and how to incorporate an IPM program in their school. Eighty percent of the participants in the School IPM program indicated the information they learned would reduce the amount of pesticides used in their schools.
- The Greenhouse Ornamentals IPM workshops have been effective and applauded by attendees. Based on evaluations from participants, these are the best workshops they have ever attended. The program delivery approach is instrumental in their success. Because enrollment is limited and the audience is split into small groups, growers feel more comfortable to ask questions and actively participate in the program. The program is changed annually and speakers from outside the region and country are invited to participate to provide growers with new outlooks. This year biological control of spider mite was a primary focus of the program. Topics for the program are selected based

on feedback from former attendees and current issues facing growers in the region. For several years, the importance of good sanitation practices and a strong monitoring program has been stressed.

- A Grape IPM program was started with the help of Federal IPM funds and grants from the USDA Northeast SARE Partnership Program and the EPA Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program.
- Based on survey data, 93% of Vermont apple grower practice IPM and 100% said that the Vermont Apple IPM Program has helped them to learn more about how to use IPM techniques. Ninety-two percent of the apple growers said that the Apple IPM program has helped them determine if pesticides are needed in their orchard and 74% said the Apple IPM program helped them to reduce or minimize pesticide use.

Severe Challenge to the Future of the Vermont IPM Program: There is insufficient personnel to meet the extension and applied research needs of growers. This is the result of significant budget cuts on the federal and university level in base funding.