RECAP OF THE 2017 SEASON

TERENCE BRADSHAW
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

122ND ANNUAL VTFGA & UVM APPLE PROGRAM ANNUAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 15, 2018
2017: Year of averages
2017 Spring Weather Conditions and Major Disease Events
at UVM Hort Research & Education Center, South Burlington, VT
2017 Spring Weather Conditions and Major Disease Events at UVM Hort Research & Education Center, South Burlington, VT

- Total Rain (in)
- Min Temp (F)
- FB Infection (H or I)
- Bloom
- FB EIP = 100
- Max Temp (F)
- 1° Apple Scab Infection Period
- 2° Apple Scab Infection Period
- FB EIP
2017 Spring Weather Conditions and Major Disease Events at UVM Hort Research & Education Center, South Burlington, VT

Graph showing
- Total Rain (in)
- Min Temp (°F)
- FB Infection (H or I)
- Bloom
- FB EIP = 100
- Max Temp (°F)
- 1st Apple Scab Infection Period
- 2nd Apple Scab Infection Period
- FB EIP

Key events:
- EIP = 100
- EIP = 388
2017 apple scab

• Difficulty getting on wet ground

• Scab was relatively easy to manage if you could get out there
  • A good bit of scab in low-spray orchards
  • Decimating if unsprayed

• 2018: Be ready to cover early if scab inoculum carried over

• Keep an eye out for black rot, rust, etc as well
2017 Fire blight

Largely a non-issue
- Weather just wasn’t conducive during bloom
- Some infection on later blooming cultivars
- Keep your eyes out during pruning
- Be ready in 2018- FB is the New Normal in VT
2017 Insects

• Considerable focus in 2017, 2018
• Continued scouting program
• Focus on pollinators
H.688: An act relating to pollinator protection
Table 5. Practices employed to improve crop pollination or reduce impacts on pollinators in respondent’s orchards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practice</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use of migratory honey bees during bloom</td>
<td>54.5%</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keeping honey bees on the orchard property year-round</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>90.9%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of purchased bumble bees in the orchard</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>80.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reliance on wild bees for pollination</td>
<td>54.5%</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of nest boxes to encourage wild bee populations</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>81.8%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum tillage to improve ground bee habitat</td>
<td>72.7%</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not spraying insecticides during apple bloom</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not spraying insecticides when any plants are blooming in the orchard</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mowing to reduce flowering weeds prior to spraying</td>
<td>72.7%</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herbicides to reduce flowering weeds prior to spraying</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>72.7%</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintaining flowering habitat within the orchard to encourage pollinators</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
<td>63.6%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintaining flowering habitat outside but near the orchard to encourage pollinators</td>
<td>81.8%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avoiding use of neonicotinoid insecticides</td>
<td>63.6%</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avoiding use of neonicotinoid insecticides before bloom</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avoiding use of pesticides rated highly toxic to bees</td>
<td>81.8%</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avoiding use of demethylase/sterol inhibitor fungicides during bloom</td>
<td>90.9%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2018 (?) Farm Bill

Items to keep watch of:

• Specialty Crops
  • (Research Initiative, Block Grants)
• Foundation for Food & Agriculture (pollinator program)
• Section 32 Produce purchases
• Fresh Fruit & Veg Program
• Crop Insurance
2018 New England Tree Fruit Management Guide

Available now in reduced form:
NETREEFRUIT.ORG
Material migrating over as we speak
Printed guide available by spring
Thank you

• UVM Apple Program
• Crop Production Services, Addison, VT
• Vermont Agriculture Experiment Station
• USDA NIFA CPPM #VTN29202
• UVM Agricultural Risk Management and Crop Insurance Education Program
  RM17RMETS524005