Recap of the 2018 Apple Season

TERENCE BRADSHAW, PH.D.
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123rd ANNUAL VT TREE FRUIT GROWERS’ ASSN MTG
• Below average precipitation through bloom (and into summer in S Burlington)
  • Minimal fungicide washoff
  • Few ‘good’ apple scab infection periods
• Strong diurnal temperatures during bloom (↓ Fire blight)
• Relatively short bloom (7 days @ UVM HREC)
A dry spring...then two Vermonsts
Crop potential 2018

- Two relatively low crop years = good potential for bloom & crop in 2018?
- Remember three factors:
  - Extreme apple scab 2017 = weak trees going in to winter
  - Warm fall 2017, late hardening
  - December 2017 freeze = winter damage, and winter held on...

Vermont Apple Crop Production & Value: 2013-2017

- Yield/acre (bu/acre)
- Production (1,000 bu)
- Value ($Million)
Tree stress
Crop load management 2018

- Excessive thinner action because days, and especially nights, were warm and sunny after petal fall
- Water stress was starting to set in by the end of bloom
2018 Fruit ripening

Avg Temperature Departure (° F)  
July - September 2018

Percent of Normal Precipitation  
July - September 2018

Powered by ACIS  
Regional Climate Centers

Northeast Regional Climate Center
2018 Apple Season Summary

• Waiting for data to come in...
• We’ll let Sarah talk about pests later today
• General mood: Let’s get on to 2019...
Planning for 2019

• Reduce tree stress
  • Water if you need to
  • Drain if you need to

• Keep ahead of pests
  • South: stay up on scab
  • All: Watch for apple maggot, codling moth
  • Keep eyes out for fire blight

• Heavy bloom expected
  • Prune aggressively
  • Stub back or prune spurs on tall spindle, esp. Honeycrisp
  • Be ready to thin hard

New Project: VT Beginning Fruit Grower

- 18-month project aimed at supporting new & beginning apple & grape growers
- Supports perennial crop production curriculum with UVM Farmer Training Program
- Interactive, two-way email forum to foster peer collaboration & problem-solving
- Nine trainings on pruning, crop load management, establishing a planting, harvest management
Update: Pollinator Policy

• TB former Chair of VT Pollinator Protection Committee

• Committee dissolved by statute 2017
  • Report submitted to legislature and VT Agency of Ag (VAAFM)
  • Broad-ranging recommendations

• New effort to work with VT Agency of Ag to finalize a Pollinator Protection Plan

• Latest bill:
  • H205, An act relating to the regulation of neonicotinoid pesticides
  • Neonics RUP; funding mechanism through registrations for training & education, apiary registration
UVM Extension IPM Program (EIPM)

• Support will continue
• New online pesticide applicator trainings rolling out (Sarah will present details)
• Scouting collaboration with Nutrien
• Calls, emails, occasional site visits...
Departures

TOM VOGELMANN, DEAN
UVM COLLEGE OF AG & LIFE SCIENCE

STEVE JUSTIS
40(?)-YEAR FRIEND TO THE VT APPLE INDUSTRY