

**Vermont IPM Extension Implementation Program (VT-EIP)
2025-2026 Annual NEERA Report A. Hazelrigg**

VT-EIP addresses stakeholder IPM needs in Agronomy, Fruit, Greenhouse/High Tunnel, Community (Master Gardener), Diagnostics, and Pesticide Education.

Outputs:

- 95 educational events (10,571 participants)
- 76 publications (newsletters, factsheets, newsletter articles, blog posts)
- 28 research farm sites
- 15 Next Generation of IPM Scientists and Educators trained (undergraduate, post doc)
- 182 one-on-one consultations with growers
- 663 home gardening questions answered, 600 commercial/research samples diagnosed

Impacts:

- **Agronomic Seed Quality Testing:** Seedborne disease assessments in grain and beans with disease factsheets on lifecycles, symptoms, and management provided to farmers.
- **Tree Fruit/Grape Workshops:** 73-100% increased knowledge of ‘Pest ID and IPM’, ‘Minimizing Pollinator Pesticide Risk, ‘Emerging Diseases of Tree Fruit’; 67-78% very likely to implement a new IPM practice; 70% changed an IPM practice to decrease pesticides to protect pollinators.
- **Tree Fruit/Grape Extension Outreach Education Outputs:** Attendees urged future online seminar programming; 98% learned new IPM information and 84% would make changes.
- **Greenhouse/High Tunnel Winter Conferences:** 18.6-62% knowledge increase of Abiotic Diagnosis, Habitat/Trap plants, Pesticide Basics, Weed Problems, Crazee Mite; 74-85.5% likely to adopt new IPM practice: improved airflow, use of trap/habitat plants, resistant varieties, scouting, biocontrol agent id, masks in pesticides, submitting specimens for ID.
- **Animal Agriculture Extension Outreach Education Outputs:** Policy discussion with NRCS and Xerces Society to develop Livestock IPM-related standards for an IPM conservation system.
- **Master Gardener Advanced Training:** 63% named IPM practices they learned that they plan to implement in their gardens or their community education efforts.
- **Master Gardener Course:** 71% mod/high increase in IPM knowledge from the course; 95% unlikely to choose pesticides first; 83% changed garden practices due to course.
- **Master Gardener Helpline:** 100% ID pest problem with IPM strategies; 67% implemented IPM strategies; 69% avoided pesticide; \$86 average savings by reducing pesticide use.
- **Pesticide Applicator Recertification Meetings, Online Courses:** 78-100% knowledge increase on Pesticide Handling; Toxicity; Storage/Transport/Disposal; Bed Bugs, Wood Destroying Organisms, Tick/Mosquitos, Rodents; Drones; Pesticide Movement; Protecting Pollinators; Pesticide Regs, Calibration; Endangered Species Act; PFAS; Landscape Diseases; 81-98% very likely to apply/use pesticides more safely; 75-85% very likely to adopt one new IPM practice.
- **Pesticide Applicator Extension Outreach Education Outputs:** 89% apply/use pesticides more safely; 44% adopted one new IPM practice; “We have minimized our use of toxic chemicals; not only a cost savings but less chemical and less disease resistance.”
- **Pesticide Applicator Certification Meetings, Online Courses:** 77% pass rate (VT ave. 64%); 80-100% well prepared to take the exam following review; 92-100% very likely to apply/ use pesticides more safely; 92-100% very likely to adopt one new IPM practice; 95% very likely to adopt one new IPM practice to protect pollinators.
- **Northeast Vegetable and Small Fruit IPM Working Group:** 100% gained new knowledge.
- **Pest Diagnostic Extension Outreach Education Outputs:** Seasonal weekly contribution to regional and state-wide vegetable listservs.

- **Plant Diagnostic Clinic Diagnostics:** 99% implemented recommended IPM strategies; 95% reduced/avoided pesticides; \$485 average/client cost savings by reducing pesticide use; “Considering time and materials, easily [saved] over \$1,000.

Publications:

- 35 IPM factsheets
 - VT Nursery and Landscape Magazine-4 articles on emerging diseases and pests
 - 27 Tree Fruit/Grape IPM bulletins
 - 4 issues of online High and Dry high tunnel newsletter. (4,000 subscribers)
<https://go.uvm.edu/owb4z>
 - 1 factsheet: Alyssum Habitat Hedges to Attract Beneficial Insects for High Tunnel Pest Management.
 - 1 report: Survey of High Tunnel Practices in New England 2025 Results Summary. 2026
<https://www.uvm.edu/~htunnel/factsheets/High%20TunnelSurveySummary2025.pdf>
 - Dung Beetle Identification Pocket Guide published, available online, 500 printed to distribute.
 - Community Extension Outreach Education presentation for use by Ext. MG volunteers “You Can Be a Houseplant Hero” including IPM strategies, videos, demonstration samples, and resources
 - 2 issues *The Pesticide Applicator* newsletter Fall 2025 and Spring 2026
 - Northeast Vegetable IPM Working Group Education, research, and regulatory priorities published on NE IPM Center website
 - 5 pest diagnostic press releases for the public
 - Update of disease/pesticide info for NE Management Guides <https://nevegetable.org/>,
<https://www.umass.edu/agriculture-food-environment/fruit/ne-small-fruit-management-guide>
 - 11 newsletter articles
 - Russet Mites: A Tiny Threat to Greenhouse Tomatoes. High and Dry: Growing Vegetables in Northern New England High Tunnels Newsletter. Issue 5. 2025.
 - Grasshoppers in May?; What’s that bug?; Lacewings; Accurate Pest and Disease ID: The First Line of Defense. High and Dry: Growing Vegetables in Northern New England High Tunnels Newsletter. Issue 6. 2025
 - Pepper Maggot; What’s that bug? Hornworm Parasitoids. High and Dry: Growing Vegetables in Northern NE High Tunnels Newsletter. Issue 7: Fall 2025
 - IPM in Northeastern High Tunnels: Where Are We in 2025; Alyssum Habitat Hedges to Attract Beneficial Insects. High and Dry: Growing Vegetables in Northern NE High Tunnels Newsletter. Issue 8: Spring 2026
 - Laurel Wilt and It’s Partner, the Redbay Ambrosia Beetle: Is it a Cause for Concern in Vermont? Fall Issue, Vermont Nursery & Landscape Association
 - Back to Basics CORE Essentials: Toxicity and Exposure. The Pesticide Applicator Report, https://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/agriculture/files/documents/TPA_Fall2025.pdf
 - Back to Basics CORE Essentials: Application Rate Calculation -Product vs. Active Ingredient. The Pesticide Applicator Report, Spring 2026
 - 27 UVM Fruit blogs <http://go.uvm.edu/ogreu> (299 vermontgrape, 168 vtapplegrower)
 - 3 Outcroppings blog posts <http://blog.uvm.edu/outcropn> (311 subscribers)
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