



Vermont Vegetable and Berry News – January 9, 2012

Compiled by Vern Grubinger, University of Vermont Extension

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<http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry>

2012-2013 VEGETABLE GUIDES ARE AVAILABLE

The latest edition of the New England Vegetable Management Guide is now available. It includes 250 pages of information on: cultural practices, pest management, transplant production and individual crop production. There is also a 50-page section with color photos of common insects, diseases and weeds. You can get a copy as part of your full membership benefits at the VT vegetable and berry growers association annual meeting (see below), or, send a check for \$20 payable to 'UVM' with a note requesting the Guide to: Carol Morrison, UVM Extension, 11 University Way, Brattleboro VT 05301.

SUCCESS ON FARM PROGRAMS

Success on Farms program aims to increase financial literacy, profitability, and long term financial stability of farms and value added processors throughout the state. They generally work with farmers over a two year period to create a business plan and analyze different growth options or business strategies however shorter programs are available for start-up/developing farmers. Their work is funded through a partnership with the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board and Farm Viability Enhancement Program and there is some funding to offer farmers access to various technical assistance grants. Aside from a small enrollment fee the programs are generally free to farmers. For more info:

http://www.intervale.org/programs/agricultural_development/success_on_farms.shtml

BE PREPARED FOR SPOTTED WING DROSOPHILA

I learned the following about SWD from Dr. Rich Cowles' presentation at the recent MA vegetable and berry growers meeting. This nasty pest of ripe fruit is coming our way, in fact it arrived in southern Vermont this past fall. SWD was found in CA in 2008; then OR, WA, FL in 2009; then MI and NC in 2010 MI; and the Northeast in 2011. It is native to Asia, a little bigger than a common fruit fly. Males have dark spot on wings. Adults live 20-30 days, females with saw-like ovipositors lay eggs into ripe fruit where larvae feed; then they pupate and emerge as adults, which can overwinter in cold climates. The population can increase 50-100 times every 10-14 days, exploding like spider mites can.

SWD has a broad host crop range of many fruits and wild hosts too: pokeweed, autumn olive, etc., so a lot of reservoirs in the landscape. Raspberries (wild too) are exceptionally good hosts. Eastern seaboard is good environment for this pest, and our diverse crops allow SWD to go from one to the next as they ripen. Raspberry can look perfectly ripe and firm but in the cup of fruit will be small maggots wandering around, then fruit collapses as disease sets in; this has been seen in grapes and blueberries. Strawberries, especially day neutrals, are at risk, even tomatoes.

Simple traps work well for detection, but not once fruit is ripe because they will catch other fruit fly species which can be hard to tell apart. Key is to put out traps before ripening. On any day much above freezing even in winter you may trap some SWD. Use plastic cups with lids, holes drilled in side, filled with half inch apple cider vinegar, and a drop of dish detergent to make sure they drown. Contech sells a commercial trap, which also has a visual stimulus, costs about \$2.50 each. Superbait formula to make one gallon: 5.5 pt water, 32 fl oz cheap red wine, 3 fl oz apple cider vinegar, 6 fl oz molasses, 1 tsp dishwashing detergent. May want to try using this to 'trap out' lots of SWD using bait in bottom of many 5 gal buckets. Physical control (exclusion) might work, using a screen with mesh <1 mm, but may need to bring pollinators inside mesh to service crop.

If applying insecticide must start when fruit are present and just starting to change color. Pyrethroids, spinosad, malathion have worked, simply need contact with flies. These broad spectrum sprays every 5-7 days are not a good IPM approach, and some have days to harvest limitations. There could be rapid selection for resistance, especially to spinosad on organic farms since other materials like pyrethrins have not shown efficacy. Researchers are studying other strategies such as baiting insecticides with sugar, since SWD has automatic response to sugar when they encounter it. May be able to use in very small quantities in traps or perimeter sprays, but this is not yet known. In the lab Surround is a feeding deterrent and will also kill SWD a few hours. For now, management tactics include: eliminate wild hosts (pokeweed and brambles especially); monitor with traps to know if SWD is present; spray crops as ripening if flies detected.

New England and NY extension folks are gearing up to study and deliver info on this pest in the coming year. Meanwhile for more info: see web sites by

Michigan State <http://www.ipm.msu.edu/swd.htm>

Penn State <http://extension.psu.edu/ipm/agriculture/fruits/spotted-wing-drisophila>

VT VEGETABLE AND BERRY GROWERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Monday January 30, 2012

Capital Plaza Hotel, 100 State Street, Montpelier (802) 223-5252 www.capitolplaza.com

8:00 Registration, Trade Show, Refreshments

9:30 President's Remarks and Impact of Irene on the Intervale

Andy Jones, Intervale Community Farm, Burlington

9:45 A Look Back at the 2011 Growing Season: Floods, Pests, Profits!?

Vern Grubinger, UVM Extension

10:15 New Strawberry Varieties and Management Techniques for Pests and Production

Nate Nourse, Nourse Farms Whately MA

10:45 Making Crop Insurance Work for Vermont's Vegetable and Berry Farms

Pam Smith, UVM Extension/Risk Management

11:15 A Visit to Dutchess Farm

Stephen Chamberlin, Dutchess Farm, Castleton

11:45 Update from Industry Representatives on New Products and Services

Trade Show Exhibitors

12:00 Luncheon and Trade Show

1:15 Business Meeting: Election of Officers, etc.

1:30 Updates from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets

Chuck Ross, Vermont Secretary of Agriculture

1:45 Spill Prevention and Containment Regulations for Vermont Farms

Annie MacMillan, Vermont Agency of Agriculture

2:00 Solar Panels Inside a Greenhouse for Transplant Production

Jeremy Gildrien, Gildrien Farm, Middlebury

2:30 Insect Pests and Diseases of Vegetable and Fruit Crops to Look Out For

Ann Hazelrigg, UVM Plant Diagnostic Clinic

3:00 Marketing at Jericho Settlers Farm

Mark Fasching and Christa Alexander, Jericho

3:30 Adjourn - Trade Show

PRE-REGISTRATIONS - Must be received by Jan 26th (Add \$5 for at-the-door registrations.)

\$35 Members, \$45 Non-Members, this fee includes delicious hot lunch and coffee break.

Membership dues for 2012 are \$50; benefits include: a 2012-13 New England Vegetable or Small Fruit Management Guide or, one book or video of equal value \$20 (see list on VV&BGA web site); a subscription to Agriview, the VT Agency of Agriculture newsletter; a subscription to the Vermont Vegetable and Berry News (by email); a subscription to American Vegetable Grower and American Fruit Grower; eligibility for a research grant from the Association; \$10 registration discount at the association's annual meeting; registration fee waiver at on-farm workshops; inclusion on the association's grower listserv (buy, sell equipment & share info).

No-frills membership option: \$20 for 2012, benefits include: inclusion on the association's listserv; subscription to the Vermont Vegetable and Berry News (by email); showing your support for the vegetable and berry industry.

Mail check made out to VVBGA to: Doug Johnstone, P.O, Box 701, Springfield, VT 05156. Please include note stating your membership selection and who is being registered for the meeting.

Questions? Vern Grubinger, UVM Extension, 802-257-7967 ext. 303, vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu. If you require accommodations to participate in this program, please let our office know 10 days prior to the event so we may assist you. Attendance at this meeting will be worth 2 pesticide recertification credits for private applicators and commercial applicators certified in categories 1a and 10.

Sponsored by USDA Risk Management Agency, University of Vermont Extension and the Vermont Vegetable and Berry Growers Association. University of Vermont Extension and the U.S. Department of Agriculture offer education and employment to everyone without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status.