

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Insights

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The National Plant Diagnostic Network’s 7th National Meeting

Weeklong conference featuring presentations, workshops, and tours to be held September 9–13, 2024, in Portland, ME

By Tania Brenes-Arguedas, PhD, NPDN National Coordinator, and Alicyn Smart, DPM, NPDN Deputy Executive Director

The National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN, www.npdn.org) is a consortium of plant-disease diagnostic labs representing every state and territory of the U.S. Its mission is to support plant health and biosecurity in U.S. agricultural and natural ecosystems by providing expert diagnostic capacity, communication, coordination, and quality pest and disease diagnostic information.

NPDN History and Purpose

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA-NIFA) and the Office of Homeland Security created the NPDN to enhance agricultural biosecurity by detecting instances of biological attacks. More than twenty years later, the NPDN is still a key component of national plant health and biosecurity.

The NPDN mission is to support U.S. plant health and biosecurity by providing expert diagnostic capacity, communication, coordination, and quality pest and disease diagnostic information.

At the core of the NPDN are 120-plus plant diagnostic labs. These are independent university or agency labs that serve, first and foremost, their own clientele in their state. As part of the NPDN network, NPDN labs support plant health agencies in their state and nationally.

A key goal of the NPDN is to ensure effective communication and productive collab-



orations among diagnostic labs, regulatory partners, and plant-health communities. The NPDN provides networking opportunities, connections, and collaboration space for the diagnostic community.

The National Meeting

The NPDN’s largest networking gathering is the National Meeting, held every two years. The 2024 NPDN National Meeting will be held the entire week of September 9–13, with the general session occurring on September 10 and 11 in Portland, Maine, and workshops and tours later in the week.

The meeting aims to increase the national capacity of members and member labs in prevention, rapid detection, and rapid response to biological threats to the U.S. food supply and agriculture across the public and private sectors.

With diagnostician turnover due to retirements and the influx of new diagnosticians stepping into these roles, it is now more critical than ever to build and share knowledge about

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2024 Webinars: IPM Toolbox, DEIJ in IPM

The Northeastern Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Center offers webinars through several ongoing programs, including the *IPM Toolbox* series and the Center's *Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice in IPM* initiative, with some webinars considered part of both.

Several webinars were offered this past spring with more scheduled for the fall. Past webinars are recorded and available to view online. All are free and open to the public.

Upcoming Webinars

Increasing Access to Practical Biocontrol Information through Digital Resources

October 2, 2024, 11:00 a.m. Eastern

Presenters: **Amara Dunn-Silver**, biocontrol specialist, New York State IPM Program; **Hillary Peterson**, IPM specialist, Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry

The New York State IPM Program biocontrol website continues to grow with information for all of North America. This presentation will provide a tour of biocontrol agent profiles and describe the ongoing process to create resources on augmentative biocontrol.

Visit neipmc.org/go/CyHd for more information or to register.



DEI in IPM Panel Discussion

October 29, 2024, 2:00 p.m. Eastern

This panel will explore a unique diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) perspective: DEI best practices, how to implement change in light of anti-DEI legislation, and how all of this is affecting experiences across the country. Panelists will provide examples to help viewers become more informed DEI-minded leaders and discuss how to support administration, faculty, staff, and students in an anti-DEI climate.

Panelists:

- **Antomia "Mia" Farrell**, associate dean and director for diversity, equity, and inclusion, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Michigan State University
- **Quatez Scott**, assistant dean for inclusion, diversity, and equity in agriculture (IDEA), Colorado State



University

- **Jacquelyn Mosley**, professor of human development and family sciences and assistant dean, Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food, and Life Sciences, University of Arkansas
- **Anna Katharine Mansfield**, associate director and associate professor, Cornell AgriTech

Visit neipmc.org/go/SdcW for more information or to register.



Bee Breeding and IPM for Better Pollinator Health

November 20, 2024, 11:00 a.m. Eastern

Presenter: **Hongmei Li-Byarlay**, associate professor, Central State University

This presentation will focus on recently published and current research on the genetics and breeding of mite-resistant stocks in honey bees, and on a recent study using a sustainable method to manage varroa mites in bee hives.

Visit neipmc.org/go/pXcE for more information or to register.



Webinars Recorded Earlier This Year

The Biology and Management of Common Invasive Plants in the Northeastern U.S. and Southern Canada

February 27, 2024

Presenter: **Antonio DiTommaso**, professor of weed science and chair of the soil and crop sciences section in the School of Integrative Plant Science, Cornell University

This presentation focused on the biology and management (both chemical and non-chemical) of ten common invasive plants in the northeastern United States and southern Canada. Species covered included Japanese knotweed, buckthorn, swallowworts, honeysuckles, bindweeds, multiflora rose, and Japanese stiltgrass.

Visit neipmc.org/go/fARB for more information or to view the recording.



The Use of IPM in Beekeeping to Control Parasitic Varroa Mites

March 11, 2024

Presenter: **Robyn Underwood**, Penn State Extension educator in apiculture

This talk discussed the parts of the IPM pyramid as they relate to controlling the parasitic varroa mite, widely the biggest problem in beekeeping. Topics covered included breeding for mite resistance, cultural and mechanical controls, and chemical controls that are both organic-approved and synthetic. These items were presented as a “year in the life” of a beekeeping operation.

Visit neipmc.org/go/FgpQ for more information or to view the recording.



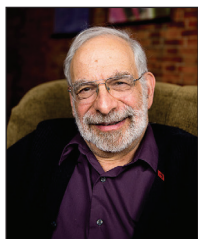
Kosher, Halal, and Insects: How do they relate?

March 25, 2024

Presenter: **Joe Regenstein**, professor emeritus of food science and head of the Cornell University Kosher and Halal Food Initiative

Kosher and halal food regulations are an important part of the food industry. Both religious systems are concerned about the practices of modern agriculture, including the role of insects and similar animal species. This talk introduced these dietary laws and then looked specifically at how each religion views insects in the food and feed context.

Visit neipmc.org/go/phCa for more information or to view the recording.



Reducing Synthetic Chemical Use to Optimize Pest Management and Crop Production: A Case Study of Onion Thrips in Onion

April 11, 2024

Presenter: **Brian Nault**, professor and program leader, Department of Entomology at Cornell AgriTech

Onion thrips (*Thrips tabaci*) is a major pest of onion production. Brian Nault shared the results of his study with 20 New York commercial onion fields on the viability of reducing synthetic fertilizer and insecticide inputs without compromising yields. The growers successfully reduced their synthetic chemical inputs, resulting in greater profits and a reduction of chemicals in the environment.

Visit neipmc.org/go/wtptg for more information or to view the recording.



NPDN

Continued from Cover Page

identifying threats from pests, diseases, contaminants, and disasters.

The NPDN National Meeting aims to increase the national capacity of members and member labs in prevention, rapid detection, and rapid response to biological threats to the U.S. food supply and agriculture.

The meeting will host highly qualified expert speakers presenting on topics such as emerging pests and pathogens and methods for detection. Seven hands-on workshops will be provided over two full days of the meeting, advancing attendees' knowledge on various topics and benefiting the entire network. Two tours will explore plant diseases and pests in Acadia National Park and wild blueberry fields.

Visit www.npdn.org/2024_National_Meeting/2024_national_meeting for more information about this year's event.

About the IPM Toolbox Series

The Center's *IPM Toolbox* webinar series invites experts for hour-long conversations to present—and engage the audience in dialogue—about an IPM practice, method, or effort.

Some webinars are geared toward practitioners in a specific agricultural or pest-management field while others may be of interest to anybody.

For more information about the *IPM Toolbox* series, visit neipmc.org/go/ipmtoolbox.

About the DEIJ in IPM initiative

In 2022, the Center launched a new *Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice in IPM* initiative, initially a webinar series packaged as a subset of the *IPM Toolbox* series.

Presenters from historically marginalized groups have been invited to discuss topics related to their research, or to share their perspectives on overcoming barriers and succeeding in their chosen profession.

Through this bifurcated approach, the initiative has grown in scope, with some presentations overlapping with the *IPM Toolbox* and others addressing broader issues where DEIJ intersects with IPM.

For more information about the *DEIJ in IPM* initiative, visit neipmc.org/go/yBmD.

Call for Nominations: 2025 Outstanding Achievements in Integrated Pest Management Award

Submission deadline: Friday, October 25, 2024

The Northeastern Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Center is opening nominations for the 2025 *Outstanding Achievements in IPM Award*.

The Center launched the award in 2019 and has offered it most years since. The award honors those whose work on IPM in the Northeast deserves special recognition. Professionals (or organizations) and students are eligible. Nominations come from colleagues, advisors, supervisors, and others familiar with the nominees' work.

External reviewers with expertise in IPM evaluate the nominees. Each winner receives \$500 and agrees to provide an article for the Center's publications/website/social media outlets and/or present a webinar hosted by the Center.

The award seeks nominations of growers, consultants, researchers, educators, managers, and college/university students (undergraduate, master's, and PhD) in the Northeast region who are working in:

- Agricultural IPM (fruit, vegetables, ornamentals, and livestock and field crops)
- Affordable housing
- Homes



- Schools and institutions
- Natural-areas/water-resources IPM
- Invasive species

For more detailed information, or if you'd like to submit a nomination, visit neipmc.org/go/YpTc.

Save the Date: 11th International IPM Symposium

Save the date for the *11th International IPM Symposium: Pest Management in Changing Environments*, to be held March 3–6, 2025, at Paradise Point in San Diego, California.

The symposium has traditionally been the premier global event for presenting and learning about the latest research and strategies for effectively managing pests. Participants have typically included academics (including research, extension, and teaching), private and government scientists, industry professionals, policymakers, and students, among others.

There are multiple tiers of early-registration savings available, along with webinars leading up to the event. A call for posters is expected to open soon.

The symposium will feature a broad range of sessions, exhibits, field trips, and award presentations. The vision for the 11th International IPM Symposium is to bring together top IPM



professionals from industry and academia in agriculture, public health, built environments, landscape, and forest/conservation.

For more information or to sign up for email updates, visit ipmsymposium.org/2025/.

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Credits

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