

**Small Fruit Pest Issues Tour
August 25, 26, 27, 2009
Dan'l Webster Inn
East Sandwich, Massachusetts**

Attendees:

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Agenda for the meeting

August 25

1:00 pm—Welcome and Introductions

1:30 Sharing small fruit pest issues with slides and discussion

3:00 Break

3:30 Sharing small fruit pest issues with slides and discussion continued

6:00 Dinner together at Dan'l Webster Inn

August 26

8:00 am–5:00 pm—Farm Tours

- **Ronald Gianetti**—Blueberry Farm
Franklin, Massachusetts
Primarily looked at blueberry scorch symptoms
- **Bill McCaffery**—Cranberries and Strawberries
East Tauton, Massachusetts
Saw establishment of a new cranberry bog and established strawberry plantings with confirmed nematode damage
- **Ronald Smalowitz**—Mixed fruit and vegetable farm
East Falmouth, Massachusetts
Saw various grape, raspberry, mixed vegetable and greenhouse pest issues

August 27

8:00 am Discussion of future directions for the Small Fruit Working Group:

Carrie Koplinka-Loehr explained NE IPM Center grant categories and deadlines
See <http://northeastipm.org/grants.cfm> for more information.

The group outlined many of the major pest issues and gaps in Extension or research areas in NE small fruit including:

- Vertebrate pests—both feathered and furry.
- Grapes—many of the group felt they needed to know something more about grape issues although there are grape specialists in some states.
- Small fruit pest guide was discussed at length. Some ideas included developing a picture guide for small fruit pest issues as in the Vegetable guide. Small fruit guide needs more IPM information/organic info. More help for the guide is necessary, as it falls on the shoulders of a few. There was a suggestion for someone (Sonia Schloemann, UMass?) to write a Partnership grant for up to \$15,000 to help defray costs and to subsidize some of the work. People should review the guide before the next meeting so the discussion could be continued if we receive funding for next year.
- More organic information needed for small fruit pest issues. The next meeting should include those with an organic focus such as Brian Caldwell, Cornell, Emily Brown Rosen, Pennsylvania, Vern Grubinger, UVM.
- More info on tunnel culture needed for small fruits.
- Pest Management Strategic Plans (PMSP) should be updated for the various small fruits. (I have included links to the past PMSPs as requested by some of the group.)
Blueberry PMSP 2006
http://www.ipmcenters.org/pmsp/pdf/NE_Blueberry_PMSP.pdf
Strawberry PMSP 2007
<http://www.ipmcenters.org/pmsp/pdf/NewEnglandStrawberryPMSP.pdf>
Raspberry PMSP in press
- More information needed on small fruit virus diseases.
- More information on weeds in small fruits needed.
- Future meetings should include NRCS involvement

Edith Lurvey, IR 4, discussed the IR4 program and went through the prioritization process for various new materials on the website.

The group agreed the meeting was beneficial and would like to pursue another round of funding to do another meeting next summer located in a northern state (Vermont, NH or Maine.) The 2 half day and one full day format worked well. An earlier in the summer meeting was a priority and dates of July 13–15 or July 20–22 were tentatively chosen. It was agreed the focus will be on organic small fruit production and perhaps include a grape portion plus include a small fruit publications/Small Fruit Guide discussion. Ann Hazelrigg, UVM, will write the grant, ask for letters of support and share ideas/content with the group before submitting.

1:00 Adjourn