

Small Fruit Pest Issues Tour
July 25, 26, 27, 2011
Northampton, MA

This year's meeting was held in Northampton, Massachusetts. As discussed in our 2010 meeting, small fruit propagation is an important channel for diseases to be spread in the small fruit industry. Our priority was to visit Nourse Farms' new propagation facility.

Attendees:

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Agenda for the meeting

July 20

1:00–5:00 pm Hotel Northampton Conference room

We will share pest problems encountered over the course of the year, new and old insect and disease problems in small fruits, new pesticides, new IPM management tools and our educational programs. Please bring a flash drive for pictures and PowerPoints to share with the group.

July 21

8:00 am–5:00 pm—Farm Tours

- **Nate Nourse, Nourse Farm**
Whately, MA
Tour of new tissue culture propagation facility and field plantings of strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, currants, blueberries and gooseberries

- **Sobieski's River Valley Farm**
Whately, MA
Tour blueberry production fields and discuss bird control.
- **Chang Farm**
Whately, MA
Multi generational farm cultivating and marketing a Chinese medicinal fruiting vine, *Schisandra chinensis*
- **Clarkdale Farm**
Deerfield, MA
Table grapes and tree fruits, cherries in high tunnels
- **Upingil Farm**
Gill, MA
Mixed berries, raw milk and cheese production

July 22

8:00 am–1:00 pm Discussion of future directions for the Small Fruit Working Group:

The group agreed the meeting was extremely beneficial and would like to pursue another round of funding to do another meeting next summer located in the capitol district in NY state. The 2 half day and one full day format worked well.

Our priority for the next meeting would be to look at the new developing high tunnel production systems for small fruits. We also would like to think about incorporating some professional development, since we lack some subject matter expertise in the Northeast in virus diseases, weed issues, nematodes, vertebrate pests, etc. We thought we could bring in a speaker with expertise from another state to do a training with our group.

We also discussed the fact that several of the small fruit PMSPs are now out of date and should be redone.

Ann Hazelrigg, UVM, will write the grant, ask for letters of support and share ideas/content with the group before submitting.