

Story Title Hoppy to be here – IPM Research and Extension in New York Hops Production

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Program Integrated Pest Management (IPM) - Hops Production in the Northeast

Educators Timothy H. Weigle

Is this related to an Equal
Program/Employment No
Opportunity?

Executive Summary The remerging and geographically diverse hops industry in New York is being driven by a popularity of microbrews, home brewing and the buy local food movement. The farm brewery legislation recently passed in New York State has created the need for locally grown brewing materials; making hops one of the fastest growing agricultural commodities in the state. The hop varieties being planted come from the Pacific Northwest and have not been extensively tested against the insect pests found in New York State. Limited pesticide control options for insects and mites, combined with the desire of growers, brewers and market beer drinkers, to have sustainably, if not organically, produced local hops creates a need for alternative pest management practices to be developed.

Priority Topic None

Issues/Needs and Audiences The farm brewery legislation recently passed in New York State has created the need for locally grown brewing materials; making hops one of the fastest growing agricultural commodities in the state. The hop varieties being planted come from the Pacific Northwest and have not been extensively tested against the insect pests found in New York State. Limited pesticide control options for insects and mites, combined with the desire of growers, brewers and market beer drinkers, to have sustainably, if not organically, produced local hops creates a need for alternative pest management practices to be developed.

Many new hops growers do not have an agricultural background and do not have a solid understanding of pests, IPM practices and pesticides, which can lead to ineffective pest management applications that are not appropriate for the pest, are poorly timed, or misapplied due to application techniques and/or not applied at all due to a lack of understanding of the pest/plant interaction.

Extension Responses A second research/demonstration hop yard was planted in 2014 at the Cornell Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory (CLEREL) in Portland, NY to expand the resources needed to conduct applied IPM research projects in both weed and spider mite management, as well as, to serve as a hands-on demonstration hopyard. Spider mite management has been rated as a pest management priority by New York growers. To address this priority, an application to the CALS-CCE summer internship program to work on alternative management strategies for spider mites in hops was submitted in conjunction with Greg Loeb, Department of Entomology, NYSAES. The intern (Anna Long) assisted in the development and implementation of a project looking at scouting methods for spider mites, as well as, the timing of releases of multiple species of predator mites. In conjunction with the Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau, the Lake Erie Regional Grape Program and Steve Miller, Hops Specialist with Madison County CCE, the NYS IPM Program held the second annual Hops Production in the Lake Erie Region Conference at CLEREL on June 21, 2014. The conference was attended by 46 participants who were either currently growing hops, or were looking to get into the business. Growers, researchers and extension staff from New York and Pennsylvania provided talks on all aspects of hops production in the morning and, in the afternoon, the hopyard at CLEREL served as the hands-on classroom for participants.

Accomplishments and Impacts Baseline information was developed for the development of scouting protocols and predator release for twospotted spider mites through the CALS-CCE intern project. Research-based information on the development and implementation of a Hops Integrated Pest Management strategy was presented to 414 participants at 4 meetings held across New York State. Working in cooperation with Greg Loeb (Entomology), Steve Miller (Madison County CCE), Andrew Landers (Application Technology), Wayne Wilcox (Plant Path) and Mike Helms (PMEP), a Cornell Integrated Hops Production Guide was printed and released in 2014.

Collaborators Greg Loeb, Professor, Department of Entomology, NYSAES,
Geneva

Steve Miller, Hops Extension Educator, Madison County CCE

Special funding sources (if any) CALS-CCE Summer Internship Program 2014

Lake Erie Regional Grape Program

Please consider this story for CCE News Yes