

## Northeast IPM Center Participation by the NYS IPM Program, 2006

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**Abstract:** NYS IPM Program staff were involved with several key activities of the Northeast IPM Center in 2006. Included were participation and leadership in the Center's Working Groups and meeting with Natural Resource Conservation Service representatives.

The Northeast IPM Center is a major vehicle for implementing IPM (including the distribution of USDA funds) in the northeastern United States. The Center utilizes IPM professionals and practitioners throughout the northeast to assist in its mission. To facilitate this, working groups have been established by the Center. In 2006 (and before), NYS IPM Program staff have been involved in leadership roles in these working groups

The Community IPM Working Group had a major role in organizing the first Northeast Regional Community and Urban IPM Conference in Manchester, NH during March 2005. Conference participants identified the development of "IPM outreach to homeowners, retailers of pest management products, and multipliers (media, libraries, teachers)" as the highest priority for Community IPM in the Northeast.

Building upon the results of the 2005 conference, the Working Group sponsored the following three successful sessions for the Fifth National IPM Symposium, April 3-6, 2006, in St. Louis, Missouri.

- 1) "Achieving Consensus for Residential Turf IPM". (Workshop)
- 2) "Facilitating Implementation of Structural IPM in Residential Settings". (Workshop) Lynn Braband organized and Jody Gangloff-Kaufmann moderated this session.
- 3) "Where Do We Go with Residential IPM?" (Round table discussion) This session brought together speakers from the two latter workshops to develop a consensus on residential IPM outreach. Interested individuals from around the nation and Canada participated in the discussion.

The working group contributed to content of a series of educational posters that will be produced by the Pesticide Education Program at Penn State University for the Philadelphia Flower Show. The series will feature "bloopers" or common mistakes that residents make in the landscape. Several sets of the posters will be produced in a smaller size and distributed to Maryland, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania and New York for use in field days and extension events. The purpose is to provide a teachable moment to the public and initiate discussion with extension personnel on how to do things right.

The Community Working Group had one face-to-face meeting in 2006 after the National IPM Symposium. The meeting was held in Annapolis, MD. We did preliminary planning for the Residential IPM-Water Quality summit to be held July 16-18, 2007. We also toured a shoreline restoration site at St. John's College to help acquaint members with water quality issues in the Chesapeake Bay region.

The Community IPM Working Group's proposed plan of work for 2007 includes:

- 1) Development and facilitation of a targeted residential IPM-water quality summit. Key outcomes will be identification of core messages for consumer outreach concerning turf management, identification of areas of concern for structural pest management, and the development of strategic plans to

address the needs in both turf and structural IPM as related to water quality impacts.

- 2) Begin implementation of the strategic plans developed at the residential IPM-water quality summit including revisiting research and extension priorities for community IPM in the Northeast.

One activity, spurred by the IPM Institute of North America and the NE IPM Center, and resulting from the National IPM Symposium, is an ongoing dialogue on Retailer IPM Education. Educators meet periodically by phone conference and highlight successful programs (such as the Grow Green program in Austin TX), and discuss current efforts and possible future initiatives and activities. The goal is to share information, facilitate networking and reduce duplication of effort around advancing IPM and other Best Management Practices by educating retailers of pesticides and other inputs to consumers. NYS IPM Program staff are involved along with over 50 educators from across the country, and many participate in the calls. Highlighted programs and call notes can be accessed at the IPM Institute's website [http://www.ipminstitute.org/Retailer\\_IPM\\_Education.htm](http://www.ipminstitute.org/Retailer_IPM_Education.htm).

Another activity that was conceived at the National IPM Symposium was a visit to the Scotts Miracle-Gro Headquarters to share perspectives on consumer greenspace management. A group, including NYS IPM Program staff, of approximately 25 educators and environmental and health advocates were hosted by Scotts and learned about the company's approach to environmental stewardship and consumer education. The visit also served as a forum to discuss common goals and principles among the visitors and Scotts, and ways that various individuals and groups could work together towards those goals.

A member of the New York State IPM Program (Petzoldt) participated in a project with the NE IPM Center Vegetable Working Group to enhance understanding and collaboration with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and IPM Programs in the northeast. Participation included attending a meeting in Harrisburg PA in December 2005 and a phone conference call in November 2006 that included northeast IPM Coordinators and NRCS personnel. As a result of participation in the meetings, the NYS IPM Program gained an understanding of NRCS processes, activities, and resource needs. NYS IPM continues to maintain, upgrade, and add to IPM Elements that are used as a basic definition of IPM by NRCS staff. Currently IPM Elements are posted on the NYS IPM website for 31 crops and more will be added in the future. Unfortunately New York NRCS announced that no awards for reimbursement to growers based on IPM practices would be made in 2006.