

Title of project: Revitalization of the Ornamentals Program of the New York State Integrated Pest Management Program

Project leaders:

Elizabeth M. Lamb NYS Integrated Pest Management
Gary Couch NYS Integrated Pest Management
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Cooperators:

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Abstract:

The model for IPM staffing is a three person team: a coordinator with statewide responsibility for comprehensive planning and dissemination of IPM information and two area educators with regional responsibility for implementing IPM systems. With the arrival in May of Elizabeth Lamb, as Coordinator, and Brian Eshenaur, as Western New York Educator, the IPM team for Ornamentals is complete. Therefore, 2006 has been a year of gathering information on producer and educator needs, and setting priorities for future efforts in IPM for ornamentals

Justification:

The Ornamentals team of the NYS IPM was not fully staffed for several years. Elizabeth Lamb, as Coordinator, and Brian Eshenaur, as Western New York Educator, arrived in May 2006, to complete the team with Gary Couch, Eastern New York Educator. This provided an opportunity to reestablish linkages with CCE educators and Cornell faculty working with producers of greenhouse and nursery crops, sod and Christmas trees and to begin to evaluate the IPM needs for ornamental crop production in New York State.

Objectives:

There were several primary objectives for this project:

- 1) work with team members to learn about the industry, plan future routes of activity, and develop the team structure
- 2) meet with faculty in Ithaca and Geneva who work in areas relative to Ornamentals IPM to identify possible areas of collaboration and to develop relationships for future activity

- 3) develop relationships with CCE Extension Educators with primary responsibility for Ornamental Horticulture throughout the state
- 4) meet with greenhouse, nursery, Christmas tree, and sod producers throughout the state to begin to determine IPM needs

Procedures:

Team development was based on approximately monthly team meetings, face to face whenever possible and by conference call if all 3 members could not be in the same location.

Meetings with faculty were often in conjunction with Program Work Team meetings, including those for Landscape Horticulture, Greenhouse Horticulture, and Turf IPM.

Interaction with CCE Educators was through a series of tours organized throughout the state (Hudson Valley, Long Island, Capital District and Western New York), either in conjunction with an educational activity planned by the educators, or specifically organized for the Ornamentals IPM team.

These tours also provided a means for open discussion with producers on their needs for IPM technology or education. The team had other opportunities to interact with producers through Greenhouse Horticulture PWT Advisory Board meetings, NY Flower Industries board meetings, and the annual meeting of the NYS Nursery and Landscape Association.

Results

Team development activities produced a variety of concrete results as well as the more intangible effect of creating a working and interactive team. The Elements of IPM for Greenhouses in New York State were completed and posted on the NYS IPM website. Improvements and updates to the Nursery and Greenhouse section of the website have begun. A new quarterly electronic newsletter for CCE educators providing a variety of information on IPM ornamentals was initiated. Team members began the discussion necessary to create measurable expectations for all team members.

The tours are detailed below:

Hudson Valley

Educational activity - Christmas Tree Twilight Workshop on IPM Scouting and Pruning/Shearing,

Producer visits – Pine View Christmas Tree Farm (Bill Steidle), DeBuck Sod (Leonard DeBuck), Wessel’s Greenhouse (Ed Fairweather), Tecni-Growers’ Greenhouse (Deborah Sweeton)

CCE Educators - Rose Baglia, Stephanie Mallozzi, Teresa Rusinek, Rick Harper

Other participants - Rob Koch of Apple Leaf IPM Consulting

Long Island

Educational activity - LI Hort Research and Extension Center Plant Science Day

Producer visits - C.J. Van Bourgondien Greenhouses, Bianchi-Davis Greenhouses, Glover Perennial Growers

CU and CCE participants – Mark Bridgen, Nora Catlin, Dan Gilrein, Margery Daughtrey, Andrew Senesac

Capital District

Producer visits - Saratoga Sod (Laurie Griffen), Brizzel's Farms (Charlie Brizzell),
Patroon Gardens

CCE Educators - Chris Logue, Chuck Schmitt, Dave Chinery

Western NY

Producer visits – Harris Seeds, Garden Factory Greenhouse, Lakeside Sod, Mischlers'
Florist, (Mark Yadon), Mike Weber Greenhouses, Schichtel's Nursery (Bob
Smith), Lockwoods Greenhouses (Sally Cunningham).

CCE Educators – Sharon Webber

Implications

Creation of a vital program in Ornamentals IPM that is cognizant of and responsive to producers' and CCE Educators needs is predicated on a team that works well together and with its clientele and resource groups. The long-term results of this period of development are evident in the IPM presentations and cooperative writing of grants by team members that have already begun.