

## **REPORT**

### **1998 Apple IPM Demonstration in Orange and Ulster Counties**

#### Project Co-Leaders

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#### Abstract

To begin developing a grower base for an apple IPM program in the Hudson Valley we worked closely with three that have experience with IPM scouting in other crops. All individuals involved gained experience with apples and IPM procedures, thresholds and limitations. As a result of unusual weather causing some level of crop damage, harvest data was not available to compare conventional spray schedules to IPM-based spray practices.

#### Background

An IPM scouting program for apples has been tried on a few farms over the years. With each attempt, continuity or interest waned in the Hudson Valley. Interest from the growers built again, recently. The strong, sizable IPM program within Orange County CCE is able to provide the consistency of service necessary for success. Many growers feel that if they participate in the IPM Program they are "required" to follow IPM thresholds and protocol. We selected three growers that had shown interest in apple scouting and already participate in the IPM scouting program in other commodities (2 vegetable, 1 greenhouse). Their experience with IPM made them excellent choices for this trial. They are accustomed to the kind of information a scout provides and how to utilize it in their crop management. All three growers have three or more years experience in the IPM program.

Just as the scouting season began in April, a new Commercial Fruit Agent for Orange and Ulster counties was appointed. Mike Fargione worked with the scout and the IPM Coordinator throughout the season to provide guidance for management practices.

For a printed copy of the entire report, please contact the NYS IPM office at:

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