

Encouraging Adaptation of IPM in Muck Onion Production Through the use of Demonstration

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Background: Traditionally muck onion production in New York State has relied heavily on rigorous pesticide schedules to produce a quality crop. Methods such as crop rotation have not been used because onions are a high value crop grown on high value muck soil, and alternative crops do not generate sufficient income. In efforts to reduce costs growers have tried fewer spray applications throughout the season. However, this can be difficult due to the intensive management and scouting practices required.

The Integrated Pest Management Program combines various management practices which protect the environment and help cut costs for the grower. IPM develops pest management tools such as pest scouting protocols, use of insect traps, disease prediction software, weather data, and economic thresholds. The objective of this project was to rate the effectiveness of the IPM program versus the conventional management program of weekly sprays.

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

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