

Northeastern IPM Center Partnership Grants Program

A. Grant Data

Title: **Strengthening Partnerships and Building Tools for Advancing Vegetable IPM in the Northeast: Online IPM Database for Vegetable Crops**

Type: Crop Profiles, PMSPs, and Surveys

Lead Investigator: Ruth Hazzard, Extension Educator and Vegetable IPM Specialist

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- States Involved: MA, NY, PA, MD, WV, ME, RI, CT, VT, NH, DE
- Funding Year: 2005 (Project duration: start date July 1, 2005, extended to end March 2007)
- Co-Project Directors/Team members
 - Kerry Richards, Extension Educator, Penn State University
 - Pamela Westgate, Technical Assistant, University of Massachusetts
- State(s) involved: MA, NY, PA, MD, WV, ME, RI, CT, VT, NH, DE, NJ
- Funding Year(s): 2005 (Project duration: start date July 1, 2005, extended to end March 2007)
- Funding amount: \$3,377.76

B. Summary

One of the objectives of the Northeast Vegetable IPM Working Group is to develop a regional Pest Management Strategic Plan (PMSP) for a vegetable crop with major regional significance. Sweet Corn was selected at the 2003 meeting, based on acreage and importance to region, and the need to address pest management concerns and loss of management materials. The PMSP will identify the critical needs of sweet corn growers and guide researchers, funding agencies, and regulators in their funding, research and regulatory decisions.

With support from the Center the vegetable working group held a PMSP stakeholder meeting immediately following our November 2004 working group meeting in Albany, New York. Several working group members participated, along with additional representatives from farms and concerned organizations. The in-depth discussions of weed, insect, disease and vertebrate pest concerns demonstrated the value of interaction among people from throughout the Northeast region. While there were clear variations in pest management practices and needs across the region, there was a great deal of common ground. The group had little difficulty deciding on our top priorities for regulatory, research and extension needs in sweet corn.

In a coordinated effort to obtain current data for the sweet corn PMSP, the New England Pest Management Network (NEPMN) conducted a New England-wide (six state) survey of sweet corn growers in fall 2004. The survey was conducted by Natalia Clifton of the University of Massachusetts as a subcontract with NEPMN, and covered insect, disease, weed, and vertebrate pests, as well as use of specific pest management tools and practices. Following the Dillman method (Dillman 1978), surveys were sent to 754 growers in the six New England

states. The data from the survey was compiled in the fall of 2005 and used in the writing of a current sweet corn crop profile for New England (Pamela Westgate, University of Massachusetts). This project funded the writing of both the Sweet Corn Crop Profile for New England, and the Northeast Region Sweet Corn PMSP (by Kerry Richards, Penn State University).

C. Objectives

Develop a regional sweet corn crop profile for New England, based upon 2004 survey conducted by the New England Pest Management Network, to be used in the regional sweet corn pest management strategic plan.

The New England sweet corn crop profile has been written and sent out for review. It has also been used in the creation of the northeast region sweet corn pest management strategic plan. Some reviews have been received and are currently being incorporated into the profile. The crop profile will be submitted to the appropriate review.

The Northeast Region Sweet Corn PMSP has also been written and is in the final stages of review and editing.

D. Approach

The New England sweet corn crop profile presents the data gathered from the 2004 sweet corn survey conducted through the New England Pest Management Network in a format consistent with previous crop profiles using the template provided by Glen Koehler from the University of Maine. The data was collected by conducting a survey using the Dillman method (Dillman, 1978) gathered by sending out surveys to 754 growers in the six New England states. Surveys were returned by 215 sweet corn growers, representing 4,474 acres of sweet corn. Natalia Clifton compiled survey answers into a report that was used by Pamela Westgate in the compilation of the crop profile. Other completed sweet corn crop profiles from the northeast region were reviewed and consulted for the creation of the New England sweet corn crop profile. We have worked with Kerry Richards, author of the regional sweet corn PMSP, to ensure that the survey data and crop profile information were available and included in the PMSP.

E. Results

Due to a delay in the compilation of the survey results work on the sweet corn crop profile was not begun until the winter of 2005-2006. The sweet corn crop profile was sent to reviewers in the early spring of 2006. Reviews are being incorporated and the final version of the crop profile should be completed by the end of October 2006. A draft is available on line: <https://udrive.oit.umass.edu/westgate/NE%20sweet%20corn%20crop%20profilevt%206.doc?uniq=jwb5w>.

The Northeast Region Sweet Corn PMSP has also been written and is in the final stages of review and editing. It should be complete and submitted by the same date.