

Northeastern IPM Center Partnership Grants Program
Final Report

A. Grant Data

Title: Development of Northeast Regional Interactive Tree Fruit IPM Guidelines

Type: REGIONAL PUBLICATIONS

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State(s) involved:

New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Maine.

Funding Year(s):

2006-2007

Funding amount:

\$15,000

B. Nontechnical Summary. An overview of the project, briefly outlining its context and key components, *written to a lay audience*. You should cover what you were funded to do, why, and who did it.

In 2005, a decision was made to cease production of the New England Apple Pest Management Guide due to constraints in staff and financial resources at the land-grant universities in the New England states. At that point, tree fruit producers and consultants in New England did not have a pest management guide specific to their region. In many cases, growers and consultants were using the Cornell Tree Fruit Guidelines as a substitute; a guideline tailored to New York growing conditions.

Cornell has been using an electronic system to produce many of the Cornell Pest Management Guidelines for several years. This system was adapted for use by the New England tree fruit specialists to produce their own tree fruit pest management guide once again based on the Cornell Tree Fruit Guidelines. The Cornell Tree Fruit Guidelines were converted into easily editable electronic files and revised by New York tree fruit specialists. These revised files were then made available to the New England tree fruit specialists for revision to reflect New England growing conditions. The revised files were then used by the Pesticide Management Education Program (PMEP) at Cornell (producers of the Cornell Guidelines) to compile a complete New England Tree-Fruit Pest Management Guide. PMEP printed copies of the New England Guide and distributed them to each New England state for redistribution to their growers and consultants. Electronic versions of the New England Guide were made available to those state's wishing to use them as part of their Extension program's web site.

C. Objectives. Restate your project objectives. After each objective, provide a brief (1-3 sentence) narrative about whether you've achieved it; if it was modified, mention how.

1. To index, organize and digitize the content of the current tree fruit guidelines in a form that is consistent with the production of other guidelines at Cornell University so that it can be searched, printed, used on the web, or distributed on CDs.

The older PageMaker files used to produce the Cornell Tree Fruit Guidelines were converted to Microsoft Word and revised by the New York tree fruit specialists. After this, the New England Guide specialists could access their own author's web site and make appropriate revisions to these revised files. The edited files were then used to construct the print copy as well as electronic files used for the web.

2. To invite the community of experts and stakeholders throughout New England to help design the structure of a regional Tree Fruit Pest Management Guideline publication based on local needs and information.

As evidenced by the list of team members and cooperators, we successfully achieved having specialists from each of the New England States revise and adapt the content

of the Cornell Tree Fruit Guide to suit New England growing conditions. New York specific regulatory information was changed to reflect regulatory conditions in New England. Specific pest management guidelines were altered to fit practices used in the New England states.

3. To create an open digital format with appropriate metadata to enhance the development of future Pest Management Guidelines for tree fruits that will more fully integrate IPM decision making tactics and pesticide information.

This objective was not fully achieved as part of this project and will be considered for future work. Web links were incorporated into the revised electronic files to so that they are available for use in a web version of the New England Guide.

4. To develop a collaborative web site to solicit input from regional stakeholders.

Through the use of Microsoft SharePoint server, we were able to create an author web site where the New England tree fruit specialists and consultants were able to access electronic files to edit and submit them for final production of the New England Guide.

D. Results.

- 1) *Publications:* Please append a final printed version or, if not yet printed, append a proposed final draft. Be sure you have followed the brief manual titled “Guidelines for Center-funded Communications Projects,” which can be downloaded from http://northeastipm.org/pubs_guide.cfm.

The electronic file of the 2007 New England Tree-Fruit Pest Management Guide developed is too large to append to this report. (The final Guide is some 250 pages.) A print copy and CD containing the file will be forwarded to Carrie Koplinka-Loehr for reference. Unfortunately, we were not aware of the “Guidelines for Center-funded Projects” manual at the time this project was completed and the final publication does not comply with several of the items in it.

- 2) Provide a brief explanation of how your publication was (or will be) distributed and a discussion of any unexpected events that seem noteworthy.

The printed publication was distributed by the Pesticide Management Education Program at Cornell to each of the New England states for redistribution to tree fruit growers and consultants. In some New England states, growers purchasing the New England Tree-Fruit Pest Management Guide will have password-protected access to a web version of the Guide.

3) Fill out and append the feedback form, located at the end of “Guidelines for Center-funded Communications Projects,” (see http://northeastipm.org/pubs_guide.cfm).

E. Impacts. Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability:

1) How many publications were delivered? To whom?

360 copies of the New England Guide were provided to the New England States. The specific distribution was:

- Connecticut – 40
- New Hampshire – 70
- Massachusetts – 100
- Maine – 50
- Rhode Island - 50
- Vermont – 50

2) How many more people might adopt IPM practices as a result of your project?

It is difficult to say since it is unknown to us who received the New England Guide. We also aren't sure as to how many of the New England Guide users were or were not using IPM practices before receiving the Guide.

3) Are there other ways in which your work might result in improved use or increased implementation of IPM strategies in the region?

Not exactly sure. The New England Guide could become the standard IPM reference for growers in New England. It could also be used as a teaching tool at IPM/extension meetings. The Guide could also be adapted over time to incorporate discussions of new and revised IPM practices applicable to the New England states.