

## **Northeastern IPM Program Partnership Grant – Regional IPM Publications**

Development of a Pest Identification and IPM Manual for Christmas Tree Growers and Conifer Producers in New York and New England

Elizabeth M. Lamb  
Leslie A. Weston  
Paul A. Weston

### Final Report:

For a variety of reasons, the Christmas tree IPM Manual project was not completed within the time period of the grant. Based on producer comments, however, the manual is still considered necessary and so work will continue on it. I have summarized what was done and created a new timeline for the project.

#### 1. Evaluate existing materials and identify required modifications for use in manual

We had already determined that a weed control section needed to be added to the “Integrated Pest Management Field Guide for Christmas Trees: Douglas Fir, True Firs, Spruce” created by Stephanie Mallozzi (CCE Dutchess County) for use in the Hudson Valley. Also, while pines are not a big part of Christmas tree production in the Hudson Valley, they are important in other parts of the Northeast.

I participated in the Christmas Tree Pest Management Course offered every other year by the University of New Hampshire and learned that there are other diseases and insects that should be included to make the manual as relevant as possible for the region. A variety of additional materials were available there that will be used to expand the range of the existing manual, particularly in diseases and insects.

#### 2. Cooperators throughout region

I have contacted the original cooperators and they are all willing to review the new manual when it is finished.

#### 3. Stakeholder response

Stakeholder comments are from NY growers at the Christmas Tree Farmers of NY meeting in January 2008, growers from New England at the Christmas Tree Pest Management Course, and growers attending the Maine Christmas Tree Growers meeting (surveyed by Bill Ostrofsky).

Overall, the growers were very much in favor of having the manual. They liked the calendar version scouting information although they recognized that some changes might be necessary to make it adaptable over the whole region. Some liked the format in a 3 ring binder while others preferred a spiral bound format. Other types of indices were suggested to be included in addition

to the arrangement by type of pest (disease, insect, vertebrate). The Maine growers, in particular, suggested additional pests to add. Several New York growers volunteered to review the manual when it has been updated.

#### 4. Timeline

December 2008	Draft completed
February 2009	Reviews back from Cooperators and growers
March 2009	Manual printed and ready for distribution