

## A. Grant Data

- Today's date: July 8, 2008
- Title: **Raspberry Crop Profile for New England**
- Type: **Crop Profile**
- Lead investigator (name, title, institution, address, phone, fax, email):  
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- Co-Project Directors/Team members (name, title, institution):  
*Dave Handley from the Univ. of Maine,*  
*Ann Hazelrigg from Univ. of Vermont,*  
*Sarah Kingsley from Univ. of Vermont*  
*Becky Grube from the Univ. of New Hampshire,*  
*Heather Faubert from Univ. of Rhode Island, and*  
*Lorraine Los from Univ. of Connecticut*  
*A Richard Bonanno from the Univ. of Massachusetts*
- State(s) involved: ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI
- Funding Year(s): 4/1/2007 to 3/31/2008
- Funding amount: \$4,057

## B. Nontechnical Summary

The purpose of this project is to write a comprehensive crop profile for raspberries grown in New England. No crop profile for raspberries currently exists for any individual New England state, except for New Hampshire; a profile published in 1999 and which is now largely out-of-date. A crop profile is a synopsis of pests and management practices for a specified crop at a point in time and forms a baseline from which improvements can be made. Using statistically valid data a crop profile identifies all insect pests, diseases, weed and abiotic factors that may impact crop yield or quality such that management practices are employed to mitigate impacts. It also identifies all the pest management practices employed. The drafting of a crop profile can also reveal gaps in effective management strategies and provide a structure for formulating an effective response or research needs (e.g., IR-4, etc.).

Additional impetus for development of the crop profile and eventual Pest Management Strategic Plan (PSMP) for New England raspberries comes from the fact that raspberries are among the crops commonly consumed by children. In fact, since a high percentage of the crop is sold on a PYO basis, many children are also exposed to the fields in which the raspberries are grown, increasing the risk of exposure to pesticides. The crop profile proposed here will be developed in close collaboration with state liaisons and growers in each of the 6 New England

states. It will be developed using the NEPMNet crop profile template, which insures compliance with USDA Crop Profile requirements.

### **C. Objectives**

To compile a comprehensive crop profile on raspberries for New England

The project leader used the raspberry survey summary information to generate a comprehensive raspberry crop profile draft using the NEPMN template and verifying it with the USDA Crop Profile 'Required Minimum Elements' published by W. Burr.

### **D. Approach**

The New England Pest Management Network submitted a proposal for funding in 2006 for conducting a New England-wide crop survey for raspberries. This proposal was funded and a comprehensive 17-page survey tool was developed using the statistically validated protocol developed by D. A. Dillman (Dillman, 2000, Coli et al, 2001). This survey was then mailed to 324 growers throughout New England with a return rate of 66%. The survey results were tabulated and summarized and used to develop a regional crop profile of raspberries for New England. The crop profile format conforms to the protocol set out in the NEPMN Crop Profile Procedures and Template and verifying it with the USDA Crop Profile 'Required Minimum Elements' published by W. Burr. Additional data and information relevant to the crop profile was obtained from New England Agricultural Statistics Service and from the Crop Data Management Systems, Inc.

A draft of the profile document has been mailed to all Co-Project Directors/Team members listed above for review. When finalized the crop profile will be published in all appropriate venues and submitted to the USDA database.

### **E. Results**

All survey data has been tabulated and summarized. The crop profile draft is complete and has been mailed to review team for final comments by August 1, 2008. It is expected that this process will be complete and the crop profile published by Sept. 1, 2008.