



NORTH CENTRAL INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT CENTER WORKING GROUPS



SPOTLIGHT ON

Cultivating a pest management network

North Central
IPM
Center

Great Lakes Fruit Working Group

Our mission is to improve the sustainability of fruit production and quality of life in the Great Lakes region.



Gregory Lang

Bob Tritten, MSU Extension Educator, explains the increasing IPM challenges for Michigan strawberry growers with the recent introduction and naturalization of *Drosophila suzukii* (Spotted Wing Drosophila, SWD) during the Great Lakes Fruit Workers conference tour.

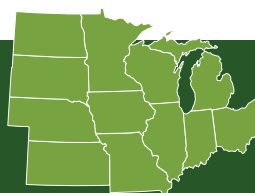
The Great Lakes Fruit Working Group, funded by the North Central Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Center, was founded in 2006 as a way for professionals who do fruit research and/or who advise commercial fruit growers, to come together to share expertise and collaborate across the Great Lakes region. The group was founded informally in 1998 by horticultural colleagues from Michigan, New York, and Ontario, who were later joined by colleagues in Wisconsin, Ohio, Illinois and Indiana. Over time the focus of the group has shifted more towards IPM while still maintaining its connection to its horticultural roots through shared research and extension efforts related to the promotion and adoption of IPM in the context of horticultural best practices.

A highlight of the year is an annual conference that draws fruit industry consultants, extension educators and researchers in entomology, plant pathology, horticulture, agricultural economics, agricultural engineering and soil biology. Throughout the year the GLFW group communicates and shares problems, solutions, and opportunities through its listserv of more than 200 members including retired professionals.

The working group created an informational website which is maintained at greatlakesfruitworkers.weebly.com/. It underwent a major revamp in 2012. Members can share photos and



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videos of pests, diseases and techniques for other members to use. Another section links to the insect pest alert system.

The annual conference includes between 30–40 presentations, a keynote presentation, and a technical tour. Proceedings from previous meetings are compiled and shared on the website. Over the years there have been several sub-groups that meet during the annual conference at one of the working breakfasts, including one that focuses on Tortricid pest challenges. The conference is important because it provides a platform for multi-state collaborative research and extension activities, grant planning efforts and plans to deal with important emerging fruit pests such as spotted wing drosophila, brown marmorated stink bug, fig fruit fly, and apple flea weevil. It is also a critical opportunity for attendees to receive training in IPM practices, technologies and products that are new or recently developing. The NCIPMC grant offsets conference registration costs enabling increased attendance from participants including those with lower travel budgets.

More recently the group has sought funding through the working group grant to support the development of regionally-relevant extension projects. The first of these projects was the conversion of the Tree Fruit Field Guide to Insect, Mite and Disease Pests and Natural Enemies of Eastern North America into a digital database that is mobile friendly. This project required building a database framework to contain photographs and text that would be searchable. Other funds were secured to translate the guide into French for



Juan Huang, MSU Entomology

Touring a high density apple orchard near Collingwood, Ontario.

stakeholders in Canada. The group will continue to use this framework to convert other printed fruit guides to make them digitally accessible.

In addition, as part of sharing resources, the group is working on a Beginning Guide to IPM in Stone Fruit that will combine a number of existing IPM factsheets with some new material, as well as a new pocket guide to Post-harvest Disorders in Apple.

Another important function of the Great Lakes Fruit Working Group is keeping and updating a list of regional fruit IPM priorities and continuously delivering on-farm IPM information in the Great Lakes Region. Some of the priorities are minimizing the risk to fruit production from climate change and IPM best practices for spotted wing drosophila and brown marmorated stink bug.

Jon Clements, University of Massachusetts Amherst Extension



Learning about the drying process in hops production at Clear Valley Hops in Ontario.

Great Lakes Fruit Working Group
www.ncipmc.org/partners/wgroup/fruit.php

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