

## PNW Small Fruits Work Group Collaboration Yields Additional Funding

The coordinated efforts of members of the Western IPM Center-funded Pacific Northwest Small Fruits Working Group and Washington State University Extension have resulted in a three-year, \$170,929 Western SARE Research and Education grant. The project's overall goal is "enhancing sustainability of small fruit production in the Pacific Northwest through educating producers on consensus-derived scouting and decision-making parameters." To achieve that goal, the PI and cooperators in the project will produce a "Scouting Toolbox" intended to empower small fruit producers to conduct their own scouting and pest management decision-making or to train their employees to do so.

### The Small Fruits Working Group (SFWG)

In September 2003 the Western IPM Center funded Portland-based Peerbolt Crop Management (PCM) for two years to create the SFWG, and in September 2005 a one-year continuation was funded. PCM, a private IPM consulting company owned and operated by Tom and Anna Peerbolt, has worked with the Northwest small fruit industry since 1993, providing independent IPM services, including scouting and consulting, an IPM informational Web site,

on-farm research projects in cooperation with state and federal agencies and private and university research scientists, and a weekly small fruit IPM and industry email newsletter (the "Small Fruit Update") sent to a current list of 498 growers, researchers, industry personnel, etc.

The working group idea came about because of a need for better coordination and communication among those involved in IPM research in the small fruit industry in the Pacific Northwest. There were many common pests, problems, and researchers, but these were being approached in an uncoordinated way in the context of various priority-setting organizations, a confusing variety of funding sources, overlapping research, and internal competition for funding.

The term "small fruit" is used to describe strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, black raspberries, and blackberries, their cultivars, and the hybrid berries (a cross between a raspberry and a blackberry), such as boysenberry and loganberry, but does not include cranberries or grapes. The purpose of the SFWG was to (1) identify small fruits research needs, (2) identify funding opportunities and priorities to meet those needs, (3) identify researchers best suited to work on the research, and (4) assist as needed. PCM served as the focal point for the working group's interaction. The group communicated via the SFWG listserv, in person, and by phone to discuss research needs and possible funding opportunities.

### A Coordinated Effort

The idea for the Western SARE grant proposal was born from conversations between Anna and Tom Peerbolt, and then between them and the SFWG members. The group used their listserv to agree on a Principal Investigator, Craig MacConnell, Extension Faculty and Director, Washington State University



Anna Peerbolt

Rick Melnicke

Extension, and then Anna assisted him in writing a pre-proposal. Anna said, "Craig was not part of the group, and his expertise and active participation were absolutely essential to getting the grant." The success of this coordinated effort has highlighted the potential impact on research of a working group arrangement, as well as the potential leveraging effects of Western IPM Center funding.

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Tom Peerbolt

Rick Melnicke

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# Director's Comments

The 2007 research season is in full swing. Most grants have been written and, hopefully, funded. There are some of you who were likely disappointed in not receiving grants this year. I reviewed several hundred grant applications this year from five different programs. I'd like to share some of my observations on the good, the bad, and the ugly of grant submissions. First, Grants.gov is here to stay, but will get more manageable as PureEdge software is replaced by fillable PDFs. This will alleviate the "Mac" issues. Second, Grants.gov is not so bad. I submitted three applications using it this year and found it quirky at times, but not nearly as cumbersome as I had been led to believe.

**Now for the Good:** There are a lot of funding opportunities for pest management research and extension. The good proposals are being funded. Those that demonstrate stakeholder need and participation in the development of the proposal receive the highest marks. This is a crucial point. If stakeholder need is not clearly demonstrated, it is unlikely your proposal will be funded.

**The Bad:** A number of applicants cannot seem to follow instructions. Read the call for proposals at least twice, highlight the requirements, and follow them! Don't assume that the review panel will read between the lines or know your reputation. You must state what you will do in clear terms. Do a thorough literature search. Many proposals fail to demonstrate that the research is unique. Some proposals are clearly duplicative of previous research. Do not forget to

include relevancy statements, if required. Several regional IPM grant applications were rejected for failing to submit this clearly stated requirement. When submitting combined PDF files using Grants.gov, make sure that the combined file is in the order you want. Adobe will list them numerically or alphabetically, which may not be the order you want. You have the opportunity to specify the order once you have imported the individual files. This makes a much clearer package for the review panel.

**The Ugly:** If you are clearly not going to listen to stakeholders and/or are not qualified in the area of research, do not submit. Do not submit the same proposal to every call for proposals that remotely sounds applicable. Some USDA programs do not allow multiple applications. USDA compares submissions and once an application is funded, will not consider it for other program funding. I realize that you need to submit to many programs to ensure funding, but do so in a logical and ethical manner. All the programs have different emphases, so write different proposals to address these differences. Finally, don't bother submitting if you just want a government handout. None of the readers of this column are in this category, but I just had to mention one application I saw that had no intention of conducting any meaningful research. The applicant wanted free money and really nothing else!

I hope these observations are useful, and I wish you success with your research and extension activities.

*Rick Melnicoe*

## State Brief

### Utah

#### **Japanese Beetle: Not Just Another Pretty Bug**

The Japanese beetle, *Popillia japonica*, was first detected in Utah last summer, and is just the latest example of an invasive pest introduction to Utah. In July 2006, an Orem resident and Utah State University Master Gardener noticed leaf damage on her wisteria plant in her backyard. She investigated for potential insects and quickly found a shiny, metallic beetle. She initially brought the insect to the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) for identification. The specimen was confirmed to be a Japanese beetle in the Utah Plant Pest Diagnostic Laboratory by Alan Roe. Since July, more than 600 adult Japanese beetles have been collected in a two square-mile area in Orem. Adults were trapped with a special "double lure" system developed by Trece Incorporated that includes a floral lure and a pheromone sex attractant.

Unfortunately, Japanese beetles are not a new pest to the United States. They were first discovered in the eastern United States in 1916 and are considered a highly destructive pest along the East Coast. Since the 1920s, the beetles have

threatened horticulture and agriculture and have slowly moved south and west. Many states, including Utah, have deemed the Japanese beetle a quarantine pest, which restricts movement of plant material. Because of the thriving horticulture and fruit industries in Utah, UDAF has carefully monitored for adults along the Wasatch Front for several years. Japanese beetle populations throughout the Midwest have not caused the economic damage seen on the East Coast.

Although no one can say how the beetles arrived in Utah, it was likely an accidental introduction via transported plant material.

For more detailed information about Japanese beetle, including its life cycle, susceptible plants, and control options, see the fact sheet on the Utah Plant Pest Diagnostic Lab Web site (<http://utahpests.usu.edu>).

*By Erin Hodgson, Utah State University Extension. For further information, contact Howard Deer, Professor and Extension Pesticide Coordinator, Utah State University, [howard.deer@usu.edu](mailto:howard.deer@usu.edu).*

# UTAH

## Three More PMSPs Completed: Garlic, Hazelnut, and Pulse Crops (Revised)

The Western IPM Center has completed three more Pest Management Strategic Plans (PMSPs): a garlic PMSP for California, a hazelnut PMSP for Oregon and Washington, and a revised edition of the national pulse PMSP.

PMSPs address pest management needs and priorities for individual crops in specific states or regions as well as nonagricultural settings, such as schools.

The Western IPM Center serves as the clearinghouse for all regional PMSPs. Once a PMSP is approved it is posted on the National IPM Center's Web site at <http://pestdata.ncsu.edu/pmsp/>.

### Completed:

**Garlic (California):** Posted on the national Web site in March.

**Revised Pulse Crops (United States):** Posted on the national Web site in April.

**Hazelnut (Oregon and Washington):** Posted on the national Web site in May.

### Pending:

**Revised Potato (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington):** In final editing.

**Forage (Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Montana, and others):** Final reviewer comments have been received and were forwarded for final editing in May.

**Papaya (Hawaii):** Has been reviewed and work group comments are being incorporated into the final draft.

**IPM in Schools (United States):** Workshop was held in October, 2006, in Henderson, NV. Draft document for review is being developed.

**Grass Seed (Idaho, Oregon, and Washington):** Workshop was held in February in Corvallis. Draft document for review is being developed.

**Sweet Cherry (Western States):** Draft PMSP is in the development stage.

**Coffee (Hawaii):** Workshop was held in April in Hawaii.



Helen Carvalho picks coffee in Holualoa, Hawaii at the Kona Coffee Cultural Festival.

Virginia Easton Smith

**Turf (Pacific Islands):** Workshop was held in May in Hawaii.

**Cotton, Revised (California):** Workshop was held in May in Fresno, CA.

**Cotton (Arizona and California Desert):** Workshop was held in May in Phoenix, AZ.

## WIPMC Hosts SYSCO Sustainable/ IPM Conference

The SYSCO 2007 Sustainable/IPM Conference was held on March 14-15 in Woodland, CA. The event was hosted by the Western IPM Center and co-organized by the IPM Institute of North America. The annual event brought together suppliers and buyers for the SYSCO Corporation to discuss the company's sustainable program goals, requirements, and audit systems. More than 100 participants from across the United States participated in this conference.

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Judith Redmond, a co-owner of Full Belly Farm, leads attendees on one of the farm tours arranged for the first afternoon of the conference.

Rick Melnicore

## State Brief

# ARIZONA

### Arizona

#### Blacklight Trapping and Monitoring Technique Aids Turf Managers

Golf in Arizona is a \$3.5 billion industry. There is a need in the desert to develop knowledge about turfgrass insect pests and IPM strategies for their control. The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Turfgrass Program in Maricopa County has developed easy-to-use trapping and monitoring techniques for beetle grubs that live in the soil and destroy turf. Blacklight traps are used to monitor and identify adult beetle flights and determine timing of emergence of white grub infestations. Monitoring data provide golf course superintendents and other professional turf managers accurate and reliable information, which is needed to make educated choices in developing effective and optimal control strategies against beetles and other insect pests. Working with golf course superintendents, the Turfgrass Program has established a network of insect trapping sites throughout the Phoenix area.

For more information, contact Kai Umeda, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, [kumeda@ag.arizona.edu](mailto:kumeda@ag.arizona.edu), or visit <http://turf.arizona.edu/insectsurvey.htm>.

# PROFILE

## Barry M. Brennan

### Extension Specialist Emeritus

An enthusiastic round of applause was offered for Barry Brennan at the recent Western IPM Center Advisory and Steering Committee meetings in Portland, OR. These meetings marked the close of Barry's service on the committees, where he has represented the Pacific Islands since 2003. The WIPMC has greatly benefited from Barry's willingness to share his breadth of experience and depth of knowledge about pesticide safety training, pesticide use and pest management, and agrosecurity. And considering that Barry has served on more than 40 national, regional, state, university, and college committees since 1967, he deserves a rest.

Barry received his B.S. in zoology from Arizona State University in 1967. One summer while he was at ASU he needed a job, so he picked cantaloupe in Yuma, Arizona for a month alongside fieldworkers from Mexico. Barry says, "We started about 5:00 a.m., or as soon as the sun came up, and then knocked off around 3:00 when it got really hot. I really got a feeling for what it was like to work in the fields." After ASU, Barry went on to complete an M.S. (1969) and Ph.D. (1975) in Entomology at the University of Hawaii (UH) at Manoa. In between those two degrees he completed ROTC and received a commission in the Medical Service Corps. He taught medical entomology at the Medical Field Service School in Texas and then spent a year in Thailand focused on mosquito, rodent, snake and venereal disease control.

After teaching General Entomology for one year Barry became an Extension Specialist and Pesticide Coordinator responsible for the EPA-funded Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP). In response to EPA's stated reluctance to fund PSEP, Barry convened a meeting of state Pesticide Coordinators and volunteered to chair a committee to write a constitution and by-laws for a new national organization called the American Association of Pesticide Safety Educators (AAPSE). Barry was appointed AAPSE's president-elect (no one else would agree to be nominated), and has served numerous other leadership roles in AAPSE over the years. USDA-CSREES and EPA regularly consult with AAPSE on matters affecting pesticide use and safety training. Barry considers his work and role in getting AAPSE off the ground as his proudest career accomplishment. "AAPSE has had, and continues to have, a major impact on state and federal programs," Barry said.

Barry filled a number of additional roles at UH, Manoa in the intervening years, including Chair of the Department



Rick McIntire

Barry Brennan

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***"Agroterrorism isn't about killing livestock or destroying crops; it's about economic chaos, social unrest, and loss of confidence in the food supply and in government institutions."***

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of Environmental Biochemistry and Associate Dean/Associate Director for Cooperative Extension. He retired in 2004 but has continued to serve as Extension Specialist Emeritus and Affiliate Faculty at the John A. Burns School of Medicine. In these capacities, Barry has focused on developing a Pacific-wide agrosecurity program. He also serves on the eXtension agrosecurity Community of Practice.

Barry defines agroterrorism as "the use of biological or chemical agents against agricultural industries and the food supply." He says, "agroterrorism isn't about killing livestock or destroying crops; it's about economic chaos, social

unrest, and loss of confidence in the food supply and in government institutions." Agrosecurity encompasses prevention, detection, diagnosis, response, and recovery. Many different state and federal agencies are involved in agrosecurity, and an effective agrosecurity program requires building effective partnerships.

Hawaii is uniquely vulnerable, because seven million people visit Hawaii each year. Barry stresses that agrosecurity is a multifaceted issue that requires a lot of networking. There are regulatory and enforcement aspects, as well as education, outreach, and research components.

Its mid-Pacific location makes Hawaii a *de facto* sentinel state for the U.S. mainland, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Rim. Barry's goal is to create a functional Pacific Agrosecurity Program (<http://www.pacific-agrosecurity.org/>) to facilitate the rapid identification or diagnosis of pests in the Pacific, expand the surveillance of pest species throughout the Pacific, and train students, faculty, and regulators in pest identification, diagnosis, and management.

In addition to his agrosecurity activities Barry is currently engaged in coordinating creation of a book describing the first 100 years of UH, Manoa's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources and its contributions to Hawaii's agriculture, communities, and families.

Looking back over the decades of his career and his many collaborations and partnerships and other projects and endeavors, Barry says what stands out to him are all of the professional friendships. "People have been generous to me. None of my accomplishments would have been possible without their support. Their friendships mean a great deal to me."

Barry also credits his wife, Barbara, for whatever success he has enjoyed. Their two children live on the mainland. Contact Barry at [barryb@hawaii.edu](mailto:barryb@hawaii.edu).

## SYSCO Conference—from page 3

Shane Samples, Director of Quality Assurance at SYSCO, provided an update on 2006 activities. Nearly 80% of SYSCO suppliers' acres are enrolled in the sustainable program. Growers following the IPM guidelines reduced their use of pesticides by more than 300,000 pounds in 2006. Samples further discussed audits and problem areas. Matthew Regusci, Primus, talked about indicator reporting.

A panel of suppliers discussed their successes in implementing high levels of IPM and how profitability was affected. Agency-industry partnerships were presented by representatives from EPA Region 9, the University of California Sustainable Agriculture Research and



Rick Melnick

Austrian peas, when disked under, provide nitrogen for future crops at Frank Muller's farm.

Education Program, the UC Statewide IPM Program, and the Regional IPM Centers.

After the morning session, the group boarded buses for field tours of Frank Muller's farm near Woodland. Frank farms in a sustainable manner and has developed a good market for his products. He showed a field of mixed legumes that, when disked under, provide all the nitrogen for later crops.

The buses then went to Full Belly Farm, located in the Capay Valley in California's coastal foothills. Paul Muller (Frank's brother) co-owns the farm that produces vegetables, fruits, and livestock organically. Paul led one group, and Judith Redmond (a co-owner) led the other on a tour of the farm. They have been producing organic products since 1985, and the farm has a loyal following of community members in Northern California who subscribe to weekly deliveries of produce throughout the year. They also sell at farmers' markets and restaurants. Paul received the 2006 Patrick Madden Award for Sustainable Agriculture (see story in the October 2006 *Western Front*).

During the dinner reception at the R.H. Phillips Winery, Chris Storm gave a presentation on the Lodi-Woodbridge sustainable program, "Lodi Rules." This



Rick Melnick

Full Belly Farm

program has gained national recognition as a locally successful, self-enforced program to reduce pesticide use, maintain high quality wines, and protect the environment.

The conference reconvened the following morning at the Heidrick Ag History Center to finish with additional SYSCO program goals and strategies. Tom Simpson, University of Maryland and the Chesapeake Bay Program, discussed water quality issues and pest management. Harvey Hartman, Hartman Group, gave a fascinating talk about consumer perspectives on sustainability and key implications for communications, merchandising, and sales techniques. The meeting concluded with a supplier panel discussion on the challenges and opportunities for multiplying successes.

## State Brief

### California

#### Proposed New Regulations to Reduce Fumigant VOC Emissions

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has released proposed regulations to reduce Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) emissions from fumigants. These regulations are in response to a court order that found DPR out of compliance with implementing regulations to meet the mandates of the State Implementation Plan to reduce VOCs. There will be much debate and several public hearings on the proposed regulations that, among other things, will require tarping of all methyl bromide applications, specified means of applying all fumigants, buffer zones for all fumigants, increased notification requirements, and limitations on the acres that can be treated in certain air quality regions. All applications must be performed by a licensed pest control business and reported to both the county agricultural commissioner and the registrant. Registrants will be required to keep track of use and emissions and halt sales if emissions limits are reached. For further information, go to <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/pressrls/2007/070518.htm>.

## Scientists Share Research Findings at Second International Lygus Symposium

The Second International Lygus Symposium was held on the Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove, California, April 15–19. This conference brought together 52 entomologists from six nations and 11 states representing universities, public agencies, and private entities to discuss the latest research on lygus species and their relatives. Symposium topics included lygus biology, behavior and ecology, IPM, insecticides and resistance, and biological control. Papers and posters, 57 in all, dealt with lygus as a pest of several crops, including cotton, strawberries, seed alfalfa, canola, dry beans, cucumbers, cereals, peaches, and new crops guayule and lesquerella. Intercrop movement of lygus species was another important topic of many presentations. A field tour was conducted to introduce the participants to local agricultural settings and the influence of plant bugs on local agricultural production. In the capstone session, participants identified needs and priorities for ongoing lygus research and education.

Paper abstracts and a capstone paper will be published in a future edition of *The Journal of Insect Science*. Key sponsors of this symposium included the University of California Statewide IPM Program, the University of Arizona Pest Management Center, and FMC Corporation.

# IPM PIPE Online Warning System Saves Farmers Millions

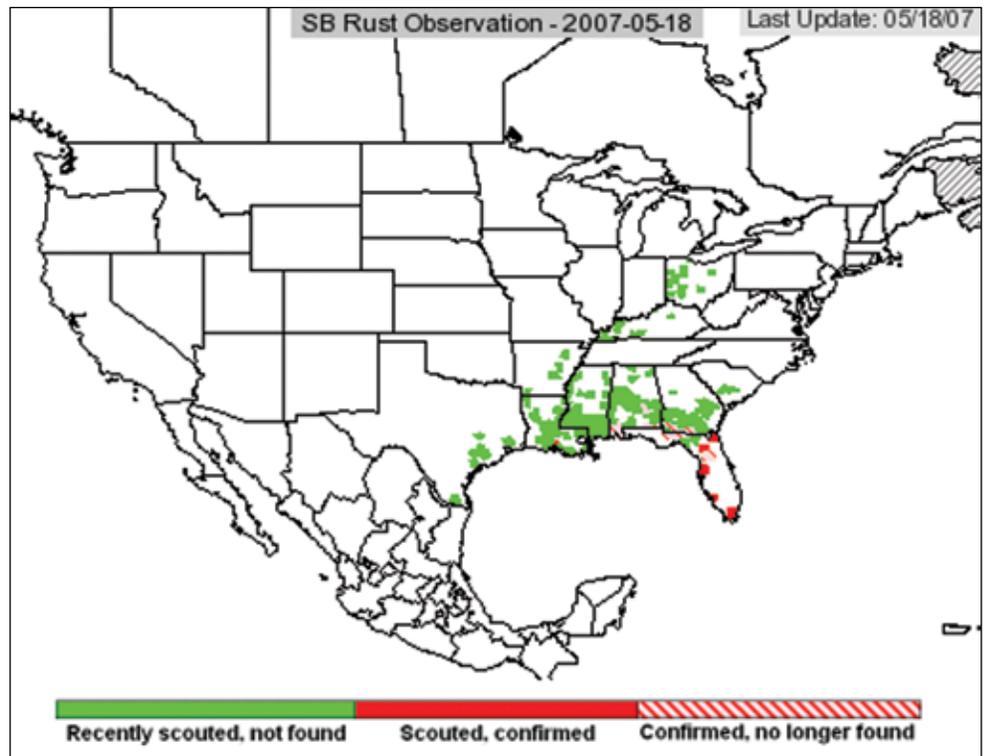
A national warning system designed to help soybean farmers protect their crop from the devastating disease Asian Soybean Rust (ASR) has already saved millions of dollars. It will offer even more capabilities this year.

Asian soybean rust has struck nearly every continent, including Asia, Africa, Europe, South America, and Australia. In November 2004, ASR rode hurricane Ivan into the southern United States from South America, where it had caused crop yield losses of up to 80 percent. This invasion threatened the U.S. soybean crop, valued at more than \$19 billion.

The best defense a soybean farmer has against ASR is to apply a fungicide before disease symptoms appear. The dilemma the farmer faces is whether to spray the crop as a preventive measure before he is sure the disease is present. This may cost each farmer thousands of dollars in fungicide and application costs. On the other hand, in withholding treatment and betting that the disease has not reached his fields, he risks the loss of his entire crop. If the farmer had some information indicating the likelihood of disease presence, he could make more effective decisions. A new national online warning system provides that information.

The Integrated Pest Management Pest Information Platform for Extension and Education (IPM PIPE) began shortly after ASR was found in the United States. The web-based system uses pest and crop data from sentinel plantings located from the Gulf Coast to the Canadian border, and from New Jersey to Oregon. Sentinel plantings are monitored by agricultural experts, and their findings are entered into a national database. Analysis of maps generated from that data, along with weather information, can inform farmers and farm advisors if ASR is likely to affect the crop.

“Soybean farmers, co-ops, and dealers have accessed the Web site thousands of times for real-time pest information since the site first became available in 2005,” said Don Hershman, Extension Plant Pathologist at the University of Kentucky and Chairman of the national IPM PIPE Steering Committee.



Soybean rust observation map from the IPM PIPE Web site, <http://www.sbrusa.net>. The “scouted, confirmed” designation is given to a county when soybean rust has been found on any host in that county and the find confirmed by trained personnel.

The ASR fungus does not survive the harsh northern winters, so it must restart its northerly invasion from the extreme southern regions of the United States and Mexico each spring. How fast it spreads depends on many factors, including temperature, crop development, air movement (wind), and sunlight. The IPM PIPE monitors and analyzes these factors to help plant pathologists predict disease spread.

All legume crops, including alfalfa, are potential hosts to ASR. As there are many legume crops and native hosts in the West, the potential for ASR to become an established pest is a very real threat.

Since the first U.S. find of ASR in Louisiana, growers throughout the soybean belt have been prepared to apply fungicides if necessary. Even though ASR has the ability to be carried all the way to Canadian soybean fields, the IPM PIPE has shown that so far only fields in southern states – representing a relatively small portion of national production – have been at the greatest risk from this disease. Growers in most of the production belt, armed

with disease location information and expert commentary provided with the online maps, have been able to save large sums by forgoing unnecessary fungicide treatments. According to the USDA’s Economic Research Service (ERS), savings attributable to the use of IPM PIPE during the 2005 season alone were as high as \$299 million. A similar savings presumably occurred during the 2006 season. Heyward Baker, from the USDA Risk Management Agency, the agency that manages the crop insurance system, touts IPM PIPE’s grower tools for documenting their production practices.

“The Management Toolbox hosted on the site provides soybean growers with local guidelines for managing the disease and a good farming practices tool to aid in crop insurance claims,” said Baker.

So far we have been fortunate that ASR has not infected very many of our farms. Experts expect, though, that sometime soon environmental conditions will allow the disease to invade more soybean growing states early in a growing season when real damage can be done

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## Creating the Scouting Toolbox

The Scouting Toolbox document will be created by bringing together key industry personnel (approximately 40 producers, researchers, and industry professionals in the Pacific Northwest) in two workshops next February to come to a consensus on scouting protocols and economic thresholds in blueberries and caneberries. This methodology is patterned after the Regional IPM Centers' successful Pest Management Strategic Plans (PMSPs). (In 2003, PCM created the draft Caneberry PMSP document and helped researchers at Oregon State University produce the final document.) A print version as well as different types of electronic versions of the Toolbox will be widely disseminated to producers through the region's commodity commissions and at various educational events such as demonstrations and field days. Web site editions that can be downloaded or viewed online will be promoted through these channels and via PCM's weekly email "Small Fruit Update" newsletter.

Cooperators are currently creating a draft document that collects and organizes the current usage, research, and knowledge concerning small fruits scouting and decision-making. This document will set the baseline for next February's workshop and stimulate further elaboration and discussion. It will also highlight the gaps and weak areas in the current knowledge base.

"It's important that the Scouting Toolbox reflect the concerns, opinions, and suggestions of those closest to the subject (producers), and they are well represented on our invitation list," said Tom Peerbolt. The inclusion of researchers and industry professionals will balance the workshop discussions. "Our hope is that this approach will produce a Scouting Toolbox centered on practicality as well as science," said Tom.

## Disseminating the Scouting Toolbox

Upon completion, the Toolbox will be produced and distributed in many different ways to accommodate different styles

of learning. The cooperators feel that the more ways the Scouting Toolbox is produced and disseminated, the wider its reach and the more probability producers will change their behavior toward sustainability. Craig MacConnell, the Principal Investigator, who will lead the workshops, will also be responsible for the outreach activities. The plan is to involve producers in the dissemination as much as possible. Cooperators will ask them to use the Scouting Toolbox in their own operations and to be proactive in discussing its

benefits with producers in their circles of influence. The small fruit commodity commissions in the Pacific Northwest have agreed to actively assist in distribution of the Toolbox to their members.

The project's PI and cooperators believe that promotion of the Scouting Toolbox by commodity commissions, and the personal endorsement by those area-wide producers involved in its use will greatly aid in changing the overall attitude of Pacific Northwest producers concerning the difficulties

of transitioning to sustainable practices, a concern that has been voiced by many producers. Producers who adopt the Toolbox methods could enjoy a market advantage by identifying their crops as sustainably grown due to the use of scouting and its associated reduction of pesticide use. Consumers have shown a decided preference for crops grown in a sustainable manner.

Tom and Anna Peerbolt can be reached at [info@peerbolt.com](mailto:info@peerbolt.com), or (503) 289-7287. The Peerbolt Crop Management Web address is <http://www.peerbolt.com/index.html>, and their IPM informational Web site for the small fruit industry is at <http://www.nwipm.info/default.asp>.

**Sources:** Western SARE Research and Education grant proposal, "Encouraging Sustainability in Small Fruits by Educating Producers on Scouting and Decision-making Parameters;" Western IPM Center Work Group grant proposal, "Continuation of the Small Fruits Working Group for Oregon and Washington;" PowerPoint presentation by Tom Peerbolt; Pacific Northwest Small Fruits Working Group grant progress and final reports; email communications with Anna Peerbolt.

## State Brief

### Alaska

#### Purple Loosestrife Eradication Effort a Shared Success

The Alaska Cooperative Extension Service (CES) is committed to working in partnership with state, federal, and private organizations and citizens to eradicate wetland invasive species in Alaska. In October 2005 and 2006, CES worked in partnership with 12 agencies and citizen's groups to eradicate the first known escaped population of the noxious and invasive weed, purple loosestrife, in Alaska. Purple loosestrife costs the United States an estimated \$45 million annually and poses significant risk to Alaska's natural resources, including salmon spawning areas. Purple loosestrife over-vegetates waterways, resulting in the potential elimination of wildlife habitat and sanctuaries, the reproductive environment of fish, and human recreational

areas. CES, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of the Interior, the Girl Scouts, and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, removed purple loosestrife from one acre of wetland in Anchorage. Newspaper and television coverage of these shared control efforts fueled a dramatic increase in demand for information about purple loosestrife and resulted in efforts to remove this species from horticultural and greenhouse settings statewide. Decreased environmental risk was the direct result of this collaborative effort.

Submitted by Tom Jahns, Alaska Pest Management Program Coordinator, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, [fftrj@uaf.edu](mailto:fftrj@uaf.edu).

# ALASKA

to the crop. If that happens, the IPM PIPE will function as our early warning system, helping growers to correctly decide if and precisely when control applications must be made.

The development and maintenance of the IPM PIPE is the result of an unprecedented level of collaboration among government agencies (USDA Risk Management Agency; Regional IPM Centers; USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; USDA Cooperative States Research, Extension, and Education Service; and many state Departments of Agriculture), farm organizations (United Soybean Board, North Central Soybean Research Program, state grower associations), agricultural businesses, and land grant universities.

The success of IPM PIPE has proven that U.S. agriculture can benefit from this technology and the organizations that support it. For the 2007 season the IPM PIPE will be expanded to cover other crops and pests. In soybeans, an invasive insect pest, the soybean aphid, will also be tracked. In other legumes including dry beans, chick peas, and lentils, plant viruses and other fungal diseases will be tracked to make this model more relevant to western growers.

The future is bright for IPM PIPE. As it expands to more crops and pests, IPM PIPE will become an every-day resource for farmers, making U.S. agriculture more efficient. Efficient agriculture means better profits for farmers, reasonable food prices for consumers, and a healthier environment.

CSREES is working closely with the Risk Management Agency to develop concept notes for additional crops and pests that may be included in the IPM PIPE.

To see the IPM PIPE in action, visit the Web site at <http://www.sbrusa.net>. There you will find the real-time maps showing recent confirmed finds of soybean rust, weather information, national and state expert commentary, and more. For more information, contact Martin Draper, National Program Leader at the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service at (202) 401-1990, or [mdraper@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:mdraper@csrees.usda.gov).

## New Weed Atlas for Guam

The Agricultural Experiment Station at the University of Guam recently published (2006) the *Color Atlas of Common Weeds of Guam*, by James McConnell and Lauren Gutierrez. For each weed, the 152-page spiral-bound atlas includes multiple high-quality color photographs of plant parts, stages of growth, identifying characteristics with callouts, and an excellent overall view of the plant in its environment. The reference includes a glossary of botanical terms and a collection of drawings of growth habits, flower and plant parts, and fruit types. The atlas is also available on CD in PDF format. For further information contact James McConnell, [mccommel@uog9.uog.edu](mailto:mccommel@uog9.uog.edu).



Developing fruit in bracts of *Acalypha indica*, a weed found on Guam.

James McConnell (Used with permission.)

## Mark Your Calendar

### 2007 July

- American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS) Annual Conference, July 16–19, Scottsdale, AZ. [www.ashs.org/conferences.html](http://www.ashs.org/conferences.html)
- International Society of Arboriculture Annual Conference and Trade Show, July 28–Aug. 1, Honolulu, HI. <http://www.isa-arbor.com/conference/default.aspx>

### September

- Convergence of Genomics and the Land Grant Mission: Emerging Trends in the Application of Genomics in Agricultural Research, Sept. 10–12, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN. [www.entm.purdue.edu/conference](http://www.entm.purdue.edu/conference)
- IR-4 Food Use Workshop, Sept. 11–13, Tampa, FL. <http://ir4.rutgers.edu/events.html>

### October

- 2007 American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Annual Meeting & EXPO, Oct. 5–9, San Francisco, CA. [www.asla.org/nonmembers/meetings.html](http://www.asla.org/nonmembers/meetings.html)
- IR-4 Ornamental Horticulture Workshop, Oct. 10–11, Cherry Hill, NJ. <http://www.ir4.rutgers.edu/Ornamental/OrnamentalWorkshop/index.html>
- 2007 Environmental Sensing Symposium, Oct. 25–26, Boise State University, Boise, ID. <http://institute.inra.org/ess/>
- 2007 Annual International Research Conference on Methyl Bromide Alternatives and Emissions Reductions, Oct. 28–31, San Diego, CA. <http://mbao.org/>

For more information, see “Other News/Announcements” and “Funding Opportunities” on the WIPMC Web site.



## Center Scope

The Western IPM Center enhances communication between federal and state IPM programs in the western United States: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii and the Pacific territories, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. It serves as an IPM information network, designed to quickly respond to information needs of the public and private sectors.

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**Director:**  
Rick Melnicoe, (530) 754-8378  
E-mail: [rsmelnicoe@ucdavis.edu](mailto:rsmelnicoe@ucdavis.edu)

**Editing and Design:**  
Diane Clarke, (530) 752-7011  
E-mail: [dmclarke@ucdavis.edu](mailto:dmclarke@ucdavis.edu)

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