

EXECUTIVE DEAN
OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Report to the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture
December 2011

Spotlight

NJAES Fruit IPM Program Honored by New Jersey Farm Bureau

On November 14, the **Rutgers Cooperative Extension Fruit Integrated Pest Management (IPM)** program was presented "The Distinguished Service to New Jersey Agriculture" award by the New Jersey Farm Bureau during its annual convention banquet.

Members of the Fruit IPM delivery team who were present to receive the award were IPM coordinator **Dean Polk** (who accepted the plaque); county agricultural and resource management agents **Win Cowgill**, **Gary Pavlis**, and **Peter Nitzsche**; and program associates **David Schmitt** and **Atanas Atanassov**. Other members of the team (not present) are agricultural and resource management agent **Jerome Frecon**; researchers and specialists **Peter Oudemans**, **Cesar Rodriguez-Saona**, **George Hamilton**, **Bradley Majek**, **Norman Lalancette**, and **Daniel Ward**; and program associate **Eugene Rizio**.

The Rutgers Cooperative Extension Fruit Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program is a team effort that delivers IPM information and services to New Jersey fruit growers, helping them produce fruit and manage pests in an economically sustainable fashion. The program uses multiple technologies to manage pests and minimize pesticide use. IPM program staff collaborates with specialists and county agents to provide an educational delivery program, driven by current research in New Jersey and other states. The program is supported by state funds, federal competitive grants, and grower/industry grants and fees.



L-R: **Atanas Atanassov**; **Dean Polk**; **Win Cowill**; **Gary Pavlis**; **Peter Nitzsche**; Rich Nieuwenhuis, president, New Jersey Farm Bureau, and **Dave Schmidt**.

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During 2011, the fruit IPM program worked with 88 growers as primary participants, consisting of 41 blueberry growers, 41 tree fruit growers, and 6 wine grape producers. Participating farms made up 66% of total New Jersey blueberry acreage, and about 80-85% of total peach and apple acreage.



The program is information intensive. Fruit growers now rely on narrow spectrum and expensive pesticides that must be timed for specific pest stages and managed to avoid pest resistance. This means growers must have a working knowledge of beneficial insects and biological controls, as well as the biology of pests. In addition, they make use of pest levels and treatment thresholds, insect and disease degree day phenology models and other environmental monitoring tools, and various pheromone technologies.

IPM goals are to bring these factors together into one management program. However, the recent arrival of two invasive species—the brown marmorated stink bug and the spotted wing drosophila—are refocusing program efforts to the more intense control tactics that will have to be used for these insects. NJAES is committed to providing relevant applied research to the New Jersey fruit industry and increasing expanding its collaborative efforts with other states and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture to help address these threats.

Unlike extension in most other states, Rutgers IPM program centers on the weekly delivery of farm scouting information to the commercial grower. The scouting and monitoring information is backed up with interpretation and recommendations to the grower for control and management decisions.



Researchers and subject matter extension specialists provide back-up for production issues, assist in staff training, and conduct IPM research from which results are used within the delivery program as recommendations, monitoring procedures, or other knowledge required for successful management. County based agricultural agents interface with their growers and provide expertise on plant growth regulators, fertility management, and other horticultural practices that may impact IPM decisions.

Grower participation is at two levels. Primary participants have all or part of their acreage enrolled in the program for scouting and recommendations. They get IPM reports, fruit quality analyses, tailored fertility recommendations, and end-of-year pesticide use reports. All fruit growers can get newsletters, attend meetings, or receive emails and faxes where IPM information is summarized and discussed with general recommendations. Secondary participants are all other growers who get IPM information but are not enrolled in the scouting program.

To learn more about fruit IPM, visit <http://pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/IPM/fruit/index.htm>.



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Spotlight

RCE of Essex County Program Recognized by Governor's Excellence Award

Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) of Essex County won Honorable Mention in the Healthy and Sustainable Communities Category in the 2011 Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards ceremony for its Sustainable Landscape and Stormwater Management green job skills training program at the East Orange Veterans Affairs Hospital.

Through a partnership among RCE, the Planetree Corporation, and the Veteran Affairs New Jersey Health Care system, unemployed New Jersey veterans were been trained through a green job skills program focused on sustainable landscaping and stormwater management. The program's in-class sessions were reinforced with hands-on installations of rain gardens, rain barrel construction and installation, organic gardening techniques, and planting of drought-resistant native plants around the East Orange Veteran Affairs hospital facility.



The veterans learned green job skills while serving as a workforce for preventing stormwater damage and beautifying the hospital grounds. Coordinating this initiative are **Jan Zientek** (senior program coordinator) and **Amy Rowe** (environmental and resource management agent, Essex and Passaic counties).

Overall, the class has installed stormwater management controls that will reduce the stormwater generated onsite by 37,000 gallons per year. The demand for drinking water at the facility will be reduced by 9,000 gallons per year. The community gardens at the hospital campus have produced 2,000 pounds of local, sustainably grown vegetables in 2011. Rain barrels built and installed by the veterans captured rainwater for irrigating the greenhouse and garden plants. The students in the class have also increased their awareness of the importance of stormwater management, sustainable landscaping, and environmental issues.

This is the fifth year in a row, and sixth overall, that RCE has been recognized by the Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards, which honors individuals, organizations, institutions, communities, and businesses that have made significant contributions in protecting New Jersey's environment. The ceremony was held at the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton, NJ, on Dec. 8.



Veterans planting late-season crops in the raised beds.

Faculty and Staff Activities and Accomplishments

Greenhouse Tour Kicks Off Rotary and Rutgers Enabling Garden Initiative

Somerset County agricultural and resource management agent **Nick Polanin** and Rotary International member and chair of the joint Rotary-Rutgers project Laura DePrado planned, facilitated, and hosted a tour of the Rutgers Floriculture Greenhouses on the George H. Cook



Senator Bateman welcomes participants. Photo by: **Nick Polanin**

Campus, in New Brunswick, NJ. The tour was a 'kickoff' event to the *Rotary and Rutgers Enabling Garden Initiative* for Central New Jersey. Thirty seven Rotary members representing 16 clubs from Hunterdon, Somerset, Middlesex, Union, and Mercer counties joined 13 Rutgers faculty and staff for the two-hour event. Among the persons giving welcome remarks were Christopher "Kip" Bateman, New Jersey Senator; **Bob Goodman**, Executive Dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources; **Larry Katz**, director of Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE); **Jim White** (chair, Plant Biology and Pathology); Megan Jones-Holt, governor, Rotary District 7510; and DePrado. Three concurrent sessions included plant collection tours led by **Nikki Graf** (research farm supervisor), the poinsettia



Nikki Graf delivers her presentation on plant collection. Photo by: **Dave Smela**, RCE of Middlesex County.

variety trials led by **George Wolster** (extension specialist, Plant Biology and Pathology), and a group presentation on the principles of Horticultural Therapy led by **Joel Flagler** (professor; department head and agricultural resource management agent, Bergen County), in collaboration with **Laura Lawson** (chair, Landscape Architecture) and **Seiko Goto** (Landscape Architecture).

Commemorative packets of Rutgers Moreton tomato seeds were distributed to all attendees. Further information on the event as well as the *Enabling Garden Initiative* is available online at <http://www.rotarynj.org>.

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Mark Your Calendars!

21st Annual Rutgers Turfgrass Symposium

WHEN: January 6, 2012, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WHERE: Foran Hall, 59 Dudley Road, New Brunswick, NJ, on the George H. Cook Campus.

MORE INFO: Contact Barbara Fitzgerald at bfitzgerald@aesop.rutgers.edu or call 732-932-9375, ext. 338. Register at <http://www.turf.rutgers.edu/newsandevents/2012symposiumregistration.asp>.

Professional Golf Turf Management Short Course

WHEN: January 9–27, 2012.

WHAT: A three-week short course offered by Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education.

MORE INFO: Contact Casey Sky Noon at noon@njaes.rutgers.edu or call 732-932-9271, ext. 606 <http://www.golfturf.rutgers.edu/golf-course-turf-management-certificate-3-week.asp>.

Developing Future Leaders for the Equine Industry

WHEN: January 10 and 12, 2012, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

WHAT: Sponsored by the Rutgers Equine Science Center, this is a two-day short course for those involved in New Jersey's equine industry.

MORE INFO: Contact Carol Broccoli at broccoli@njaes.rutgers.edu or call 732-932-9271, ext. 618.

NJ State Ag Convention and Vegetable Growers Association of NJ Trade Show

WHEN: January 17-19, 2012, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

WHERE: Trump Taj Mahal, Atlantic City, NJ.

WHAT: Educational programs related to vegetable, fruit, and crop production and marketing organized by Rutgers NJAES Cooperative Extension, plus listening sessions hosted by the NJDA.

MORE INFO: Contact Michelle Infante-Casella at minfante@njaes.rutgers.edu or call 856-307-6450, ext. 1. For more information, visit <http://www.nj.gov/agriculture/conventions/2012/>.

Integrated Pest Management

WHEN: January 17–19, 2012.

WHAT: A two-part class focused on ornamental plant care, offered by Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education.

MORE INFO: Contact Karen Tizzano at ktizzano@njaes.rutgers.edu or 732-932-9271, ext. 625. <http://www.cpe.rutgers.edu/courses/current/al0401ca.html>

2012 NJ Agritourism Conference for North, Central, and South Jersey

WHEN: January 24-26, 2012, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

WHAT: For prospective or current farmers working with agritourism and direct marketing.

MORE INFO: Contact Michelle Infante-Casella at minfante@njaes.rutgers.edu or call 856-307-6450, ext. 1. http://events.rutgers.edu/pdfs/ATConference_Brochure_2.pdf.

This report is produced by the Office of Communications and is available online at <http://execdeanagriculture.rutgers.edu/boa/>.

For information or to provide comments, please contact Paula Walcott-Quintin at quintin@aesop.rutgers.edu or 848-932-4204.

