

---

# The IPM Report



Integrated Pest Management in Michigan

Vol. 9, No. 2 - Fall 2003

---

Published by the Michigan State University IPM Program

## Seeking input: Outreach of the MSU IPM Program and Project GREEN ICM Effort

A *special invitation* is extended to Michigan plant-based industry constituents, MSUE and MSU department colleagues, Michigan state government partners and other interested parties to participate in an open discussion on current and future program activities of the MSUE IPM Program and Project GREEN ICM effort\*. You may know us through projects like the *CAT Alert* newsletters, pocket scouting guides, county newsletters, radio and email updates, demonstration projects and breakfast meetings. Your input is needed to prioritize our efforts for the future.

The discussion will occur **December 16**, 8:30 AM to Noon in Room 106 of the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center on the MSU campus. Parking passes for the hotel's ramp will be provided at the meeting.

**Please RSVP** to Angela Jernstadt (email: [jernsta2@pilot.msu.edu](mailto:jernsta2@pilot.msu.edu); phone: 517-355-4663) if you will attend. If you cannot attend, you are welcome to submit comments about our program to Angela.

### Description of our program

The mission of the IPM Program and affiliated outreach integrated crop management (ICM) effort at Michigan State University is to provide educational opportunities and participate in demonstration and applied research that promote use of IPM/ICM strategies to protect agricultural production from pest organisms and other plant stressors while maintaining environmental health. *Our special charge is to aid the integration of activities across specializations and units.* A team of 11 IPM and ICM staff members\* conduct projects within the commodity areas of fruit, landscape and nursery, field crops, vegetable and forestry plant production systems. We work with specialists in many units including the MSU Departments of Plant Pathology, Entomology, Crop & Soil Sciences, Horticulture, Forestry, and field staff of MSU Extension, the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station and the Michigan Department of Agriculture.

**\*Who we are** — IPM staff: Mike Brewer, Joy Landis, Dave Epstein, Diane Brown-Rytlewski, Rebecca Lamb, and Dale Mutch. ICM agents: Jim Breinling, Amy Irish-Brown, Mira Danilovich, Dean Krauskopf, and Jill O'Donnell. Get to know us better by visiting our web site at: [www.ipm.msu.edu](http://www.ipm.msu.edu)



## New guide helps growers apply to incentives program for IPM and other conservation practices

Farmers understand better than most people the value of farming practices that conserve natural resources and protect the environment. They also know implementing those practices can be expensive because the initial costs can rarely be recovered from the sale of their crops. To better support growers' efforts, the 2002 Farm Bill increased the funding available to assist growers with the expense of initiating conservation practices. One of the programs funded is the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

EQIP is a voluntary program administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that provides payments to eligible growers for a wide range of practices on their farms. Growers can receive payments for practices such as integrated pest management, erosion control, conservation of water resources, wildlife habitat protection and nutrient management.

For growers who have had little experience with the Farm Bill, NRCS, or government conservation programs, taking advantage of these opportunities may seem challenging. A guide has been developed to serve as a grower-friendly aid for specialty crop growers who have not previously been involved in Farm Bill programs. The guide is designed to help successfully negotiate the steps to applying for EQIP payments. It is available on the Internet at: [-www.ipm.msu.edu/farmbill/start.htm](http://www.ipm.msu.edu/farmbill/start.htm)

Additional information on EQIP is available at: [www.ipm.msu.edu/farmbill.htm](http://www.ipm.msu.edu/farmbill.htm)

Information about IPM is available at: [www.ipm.msu.edu](http://www.ipm.msu.edu)

## Quick update on CAT Alert newsletters

For nearly two decades MSU has published a pest report newsletter for growers. Sometime in the mid-1980's the newsletter was given to the IPM Program to administer and the publication evolved into an integrated pest and crop management newsletter available in four editions: fruit, vegetables, field crops, and a diverse landscape edition that includes turfgrass and Christmas trees. The newsletter is entitled *Crop Advisory Team Alert* which is often shortened to *CAT Alert*.

During the 1990's the newsletter continued to advance with the times by publishing its articles on the Internet as well as in print. (See <http://www.ipm.msu.edu/aboutcat.htm>)

In 1999 a new edition, the *Greenhouse Alert*, was added to the program. It provides cultural practices and pest management advice for growing garden plants in the greenhouse.

Today the newsletter continues as a key resource for delivering in-season advice from MSU Extension agents and specialists to

growers and consultants in agriculture and landscape settings. We partner with the Michigan Department of Agriculture to support our web publishing efforts. In Michigan, farm access to the Internet increased from 28% in 1999 to 48% in 2001 according to a USDA survey (USDA NASS 2001).

An option for Internet readers is to sign up to receive a brief email announcement when a new issue is posted. This is the simplest way to know when new issues are posted. About half of our Internet readers sign up for the emails. Internet readers may also use a search engine to locate topics from the last five years of publishing. (More readers statistics are in the box on this page.)

Looking ahead, we are writing a proposal to develop a new alternative agriculture edition that would be published in partnership with neighboring states. This edition would be an on-line newsletter with emphasis in field crops although topics for other commodities would be featured periodically and re-printed in other editions of the *Alerts*.

If you have suggestions for the *CAT Alerts*, please email us at: [catalert@msue.msu.edu](mailto:catalert@msue.msu.edu)

## New publication helps citizens concerned about Emerald ash borer identify ash trees

Emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*), an exotic insect that is known to attack only ash trees, has emerged as a major insect pest in Michigan. MSU Extension has partnered with the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA), Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the USDA Forestry Service to develop communication and extension strategies for managing the borer. The group noted that homeowners, property managers and others with limited knowledge of trees might have trouble identifying ash trees. Since this pest is known to only attack ash, it was important to provide a means to distinguish ash trees from other common trees. Wrong identification could result in unnecessary treatments or destruction of non-ash trees.

Since there were no current publications for this purpose, an MSU Extension bulletin was created by the IPM Program's

### Approximate number of readers per issue of the MSU Crop Advisory Team Alert newsletters

Here are some reader statistics from the 2003 season. These statistics do not take into account people who share their newsletters with others or post or reprint the information where others will view it. Common media calculations for those types of statistics would likely multiply our numbers by five.

Edition	Number of issues	Internet readers	Print readers	Readers total
Fruit	18	400	300	700
Field crop	18	350	300	650
Vegetable	19	250	200	400
Landscape	18	800	600	1,400
Greenhouse	11	270	n/a	270

#### The Teams

The five CAT Alert teams include approximately 65 MSU Extension agents and 42 specialists from these MSU departments: Crop & Soil Sciences, Entomology, Forestry, Geography, Horticulture, and Plant Pathology.



Mountainash –  
alternate branching



Mountainash  
flowers

## European mountainash, *Sorbus aucuparia*

Leaves are compound, 5 to 9 inches long with 9 to 15 leaflets per leaf. Leaflets are a toothed, rounded oval shape. Flowers are five-petaled, white and similar to cherry or apple blossoms but in clusters. Fruits are fleshy, red-orange berries in clusters – they are found in the fall.

Mountainash  
leaf



Photos by Diane Brown-Rytlewski

Diane Brown-Rytlewski and Rebecca Lamb. The bulletin features an identification key to distinguish between ash species and hickory, black walnut, elm, mountain-ash and box-elder — all commonly found trees that might be confused with ash. The four-page bulletin was designed with black and white photos and line drawings to allow it to be photocopied with good results. Pictures of distinguishing features of each type of tree are included, such as leaves, alternate or opposite branching, fruit, buds, flowers and leaf scars. The bulletin was reviewed by MSU, MDA and potential users and published in May 2003 with 45,000 copies (Less than 15,000 copies remain as of November 2003).

The bulletin entitled *Distinguishing Ash from other Common Trees* (Extension Bulletin E-2892) is can be printed from a pdf file at the IPM Program website:

<http://www.ipm.msu.edu/pdf/E2892Ash.pdf>

Print copies can be ordered from MSU Extension by calling 517-353-6740 or ordering at:

<http://web2.msue.msu.edu/bulletins/mainsearch.cfm>

During the summer, the web version of the bulletin received upwards of 300 hits a week, and is still currently being accessed over 150 times a week.

Above is an example of the information in *Distinguishing Ash from other Common Trees*. Pictures in the actual bulletin are larger.

## New DVD teaches apple orchard scouting

A new video in DVD format will be available for distribution this spring. *A Practical Guide for Scouting Apple Orchards* is a 90-minute presentation of useful information and visual instruction in the many aspects of scouting. A team of MSU specialists and Extension agents, independent apple consultants and growers worked with a professional video production company in developing, scripting and filming the on-farm demonstrations found in this production.

The DVD is divided into 21 distinct modules covering topics from choosing a weather monitoring system to developing a weekly scouting program to in-depth discussions on degree-day models, monitoring primary disease and insect pest organisms, and biological control. The viewer can either watch the DVD in one sitting, or access specific topics individually by choosing the track containing the desired topic as needed over the growing season.

*A Practical Guide for Scouting Apple Orchards* is a great opportunity for growers, scouts, and others to experience the changes that occur in an orchard over a complete growing season before scouting in the field takes place. It should increase understanding of what a scouting program entails and what information is necessary to make informed pest management decisions. The DVD is expected to be available through the MSU Extension Bulletin office by the start of the 2004 growing season. Contact David Epstein (517-432-4766 or email [epstei10@pilot.msu.edu](mailto:epstei10@pilot.msu.edu)) at the MSU IPM Program for further details.

## State Budget Discussions

The Governor's office has asked for comments about the value of accomplishments of Michigan State University Extension and Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station. This request comes as the State faces a substantial budget shortfall. Summaries and statistics about MSUE and MAES programs are available at this web site: <http://www.msue.msu.edu/home/priority/index.html>

## The Michigan IPM Report staff

Michael Brewer, IPM Coordinator  
Joy Neumann Landis, IPM Report Editor  
Rebecca Thompson, IPM Report Assistant Editor

MSU IPM Program  
B18 Food Safety & Toxicology Bldg.  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI 48824  
(517) 353-4951 landisj@msu.edu



*The IPM Report* is published bi-annually as an educational service. MSU is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution. MSU Extension programs and materials are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital status, or family status.

## *In this issue*

**Seeking input for MSU  
IPM Program and Project  
GREEN ICM Outreach**

**New guide to EQIP**

**Update on *CAT Alerts***

**New publication helps  
save and identify trees**

**DVD teaches apple  
scouting**

**We've updated our web address:  
<http://www.ipm.msu.edu>**