

Maryland
Summary of IPM Challenges
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In lieu of a true state report, I asked colleagues to describe this year's IPM challenges.

In summary:

The weather always plays a major role in what we see. This year, we had a mild “non-winter” December through February and into early March, then around March 11 the temps plunged into the teens and we had snow on March 14, with several days after that of icy conditions. We had early bloom of many trees like Magnolia (started March 1 in 2017, when the year before it started March 28). Lots of cold injury to not only the early magnolias but the early cherries, and ornamentals like daffodils and pansies. Cherries and plums produced a second flush of blooms later in the season, so there was still some fruit production.

Then in the late spring/summer we had above average rainfall. The frequent occurrence of showers and heavy rainfall events resulted in a banner year for leaf spot diseases on all sorts of crops. Flowering cherries were severely defoliated by mid-late summer, because leaves with either the bacterial leaf spot or the fungal leaf spot are dropped from the tree.

Phytophthora diseases were common in vegetables, small fruits and ornamentals, again, due to high rainfall and saturated soils. *Phytophthora capsici* causing watermelon fruit rot and crown rot was particularly damaging this year on the Eastern Shore – some growers lost 60-80%.

Pythium and Phytophthora in bell pepper was another issue, due to saturated soils.

We had two cases of southern wilt in tomato caused by *Ralstonia solanacearum* Race 1 come in to the clinic this year (one from St. Mary's county and one from Wicomico County). It's been reported on Maryland tobacco and tomatoes in the 1980's and 90's, but it's been more than 15 years since it's been diagnosed on a clinic sample. This disease is very common in the Southeast.

Soybean sudden death syndrome was more common this year than in years past. Dectes stem borer continues to be an insect of concern in soybeans, and herbicide resistant weeds such as palmer amaranth are the "big" issue for grains.

What seemed a bit odd was the heavy spider mite populations on many plants this year, even with the rain and moderate temperatures. On ornamentals and on vegetables. Jerry Brust mentioned he's been seeing increasing spider mite populations every year, regardless of weather conditions, especially on cucumbers, tomatoes and eggplant.

We had a detection of sugar cane aphid in sorghum last year and are keeping an eye on the situation, I haven't heard much about it yet this year. We're also keeping an eye out for western bean cutworm.