

2021 Highlights in Rhode Island fruit production

Heather Faubert, hfaubert@uri.edu

It was such a different season from last year. There was often too much rain whereas last year was so droughty. Overall, it was a pretty good growing season without too many problems. Nice weather in September and October encouraged many PYO customers to visit local farms.

Unusual problems:

- Very noticeable cedar apple rust galls on junipers, especially over Memorial Day weekend.
- Captan injury on peach foliage, June 21, which looked like bacterial spot. Only the oldest leaves were affected.
- A whole lot of rosy apple aphid. Many backyard growers with problems too.
- Lots of powdery mildew on apples and pears. Many complaints from homeowners too.
- Dapple apple - trees infected with Apple scar skin viroid. I first saw it in one orchard about 15 years ago. Symptoms only seen on fruit of some cultivars. Grower's Empire were infected. Golden Delicious and Mutsu can be symptomless carriers. Moves via root grafts, so moves very slowly through orchard.





- Orange rust in blackberry plantings.
- Tremendous population of raspberry fruitworm in high tunnel raspberry planting.



- Found a new mealybug on grapes. Identified as *Ferrisia dasyliirii*, which is a new record for New England. It's only been found in CA, NM, AR, TX, FL. From 1953 – 2012 *Ferrisia dasyliirii* was synonymized with *F. virgata*.