NJFMEP Nursery Survey – 2008

During the winter of 2008, the NJDEP Pesticide Control Program provided licensed Private Applicators with the opportunity to receive 1 unit of Core credit for completing a survey. The survey was designed based on the results of the initial overview survey conducted during 2006-2007. This survey focused solely on the nursery industry in NJ.

7 surveys were completed. The survey responses indicate the average nursery acreage in production is 4.5 acres. The average greenhouse production is 5,500 square feet. More than 70% of those surveyed described their nursery operation as a grower (either retail or wholesale). While slightly less than half of the respondents indicated that the plants they sell are grown at their own nursery, they remaining responses indicated that they purchase products (finished or unfinished) from other NJ nurseries for resale. Deer appear to be the most significant pest pressure for nursery stock and they also appear to be difficult to control. The survey indicates that farm supply/chemical dealers are the primary source of pest management information, with newsletters, other growers and extension agents also contributing input. The practice of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) seems to be split nearly in half between those individuals who always implement IPM strategies and those who never do.

The specific responses to each survey question are presented as follows.

**How long have you been producing nursery stock?**
The responses ranged from 0 to 40 years. The average response was 15 years.

**How many acres are in production?**
Only 6 responded. The responses ranged from 1 to 10 acres. The average was 4.5 acres.

**How many square feet (greenhouses) are in production?**
The responses ranged from 0 to 28,000 square feet. The average was 5,500 square feet.

**What do you grow? Mark all that apply.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shrub</th>
<th>Conifers</th>
<th>Deciduous Trees</th>
<th>Roses</th>
<th>Other Balled trees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit Trees</td>
<td>X Bulbs</td>
<td>Herbaceous Perennials</td>
<td>Ornamental Grasses</td>
<td>Other Native plants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X Groundcovers</td>
<td>Vines</td>
<td>X Christmas Trees</td>
<td>X Annuals</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How would you best describe your nursery operation? (Circle ONE)
7 responses.

- Grower-Retail/Wholesale: 74%
- Other: 29%
- Dealer/Retailer: 0%
- Landscaper (Installation): 0%
- Grower-Wholesale Only: 0%

What would you consider your MAIN source of plant material? (Circle ONE)
7 responses.

- Plants grown and sold by your NJ operation: 43%
- Unfinished products from other NJ nurseries: 43%
- Finished products from other NJ nurseries: 18%
- Unfinished products from out of state: 0%
- Finished products from out of state: 0%
What is your MOST significant pest pressure? (Circle ONE)
8 responses.

- Insects: 38%
- Weeds: 25%
- Pathogens: 25%
- Deer: 12%

Are there any pests that you can’t control? Please list: Deer, wild turkey

Circle the source of information MOST used for pest management. (Circle ONE)
8 responses.

- Farm supply/chemical dealer: 38%
- Other growers: 25%
- Newsletters, trade magazines: 25%
- Extension agents: 12%
- Grower association: 0%
- Crop consultant/pest advisor: 0%
- Extension publications: 0%
Do you practice Integrated Pest Management (IPM)? (Circle ONE) 
7 responses.

43% Always
43% Sometimes
14% Never

Overall, has your production increased or decreased over the past 5 years?
Please explain: 4 responded increased. 1 responded decreased. 1 responded stayed the same. Other responses were plants more mums and annuals and too new to have a record.