

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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SUMMARY OF MASSACHUSETTS 2017 ACTIVITIES CROP & PEST SERVICES

NURSERY/INSPECTION PROGRAM

MDAR registered 168 nursery growers with all inspected between June and August 2017. MDAR registers agents, but does not inspect those unless there are issues. (We did issue five STOP SALE ORDERS in May at Home Depot for having Norway Maple).

Most common insects/diseases found at nurseries in 2017 were Winter Moth, Gypsy Moth, Willow Leaf Beetle, Black Vine Weevil, Cedar Apple Rust, Powdery Mildew, Tar Spot and Black Spot on rose. Gypsy Moth was very heavy from spring into early summer and in some areas they were even feeding on pine. Around mid-July, larvae were impacted by the fungal and viral pathogens and multitudes were found disintegrating on trees.

The three MDAR Nursery Inspectors worked with our state CAPS coordinator and inspected 37 sites for Asian Longhorned Beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*), Citrus Longhorned Beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*), Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*), Cucumber Beetle (*Diabrotica speciosa*) and Mile-a-Minute Vine (*Polygonum perfoliatum*). All sites came up negative.

Pest	Sites	# Plants Inspected	# Negative
Insect Pests			
<i>Anoplophora chinensis</i>	37	4692	4692
<i>Anoplophora glabripennis</i>	37	10474	10474
<i>Diabrotica speciosa</i>	37	7442	7442
<i>Lycorma delicatula</i>	37	Entire nursery inspected	37
Invasive Plants			
<i>Polygonum perfoliatum</i>	37	Entire nursery inspected	37

MDAR inspectors issued a total of 572 Federal Phytosanitary Certificates for plants, seeds, lumber and apples, with Canada (164), Netherlands (55), Hong Kong (39), Australia (38) and China (36) being the primary recipients. Inspectors issued a total of 1,022 state phytosanitary certificates for plants and seeds with California (319), Washington (217) and Oregon (132) being the primary recipients.

MDAR inspectors performed eight houseplant inspections totaling 60 houseplants. Five certificates were issued for California, two for Florida and one to Illinois.

MDAR inspected 8 container loads of apples totaling 7,496 apples for shipment to the United Kingdom. It was an extremely poor year for apples (and peaches) since a heavy frost hit the region during the king bloom period resulting in an almost total loss of the peach crop and a very significant loss in the apple crop. A normal year would have 20-25 apple shipments with the bulk being shipped to Canada between February and June.

MDAR issued a total of eight Control Area Permits totaling 19 currant/gooseberry plants allowing the importation of Currants and Gooseberries into towns that are allowed to have these plants. (Black Currants and Jostaberries are prohibited in Massachusetts). Of the 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts, 145 are prohibited from having currants. MDAR inspectors follow up at each site to ensure that the number of plants match with the bill of lading. (Massachusetts has one currant grower in the state and we are now requiring that this grower apply for control area permits to allow them to sell in non-regulated areas within the state. So far in 2018, MDAR has issued 56 permits for this grower). One Stop Sale/Destruction Order was issued to a nursery that was found to have 30 Red Currants in a town that is prohibited to have such plants.

MDAR inspectors monitor several sites for Mile-a-Minute Vine and Giant Hogweed. Since 2005, MDAR inspectors have found a total of 51 Giant Hogweed sites. To date, 23 of these sites have been deemed eradicated through the perseverance of private citizens and MDAR inspectors hand-pulling these plants until they have been proven gone for six years. Inspectors will actively monitor and control the remaining sites until they are deemed eradicated. There are currently 54 active MAM sites, 3 of which were declared eradicated in 2017. MAM sites are primarily managed by site owners and volunteer groups, however 3 sites have received biological control agents and MDAR inspectors have assisted with monitoring efforts.

APIARY PROGRAM

It was a very exciting year for the MDAR Apiary Program given the addition of a new state apiary, student interns, the launch of the Varroa Mite Education Program and an updated website. Through the collaboration with the University of Massachusetts (UMASS) Stockbridge School of Agriculture, the Apiary Program mentored two undergraduate student interns. These students assisted the Apiary Team in managing the two state apiaries and by taking samples for the USDA Honey Bee Survey which represents data from 24 apiaries (240 colonies) across the state.

The apiary program also launched a Varroa Mite Education program consisting of a newly created varroa mite management brochure and giving out 1,768 mite wash jars to beekeepers. This program was a huge success and will be carried out in 2018. The Apiary Team also delivered 56 outreach educational programs to 2,557 stakeholders across the state, including a monthly State Apiary beekeeping management program. These programs proved very popular and will be offered again from April to October 2018.

During 2017, a total of 527 inspection requests were received using a new online form and 27 using an existing paper form. A total of 96 apiaries were registered using the new online form. The team of five inspectors visited 636 beekeepers (4,059 colonies) looking for pests, parasites and pathogens. Findings are as follows:

Common Name	Total Colonies Detected with Issues
American Foulbrood	3
European Foulbrood	137
Chalkbrood	48
Nosema	5
Parasitic Mite Syndrome/Brood Disease Syndrome	381
Sacbrood Virus	168
Deformed Wing Virus	267
Black Queen Cell Virus	21
Chronic Bee Paralysis Virus	7
Small Hive Beetle	58
Total Issues	1,095

ADDITIONAL DUTIES

In addition to the nursery/phyto/apple inspection duties (Kim Skyrn is the Chief Apiarist), I am the Feed Control and Fertilizer Control Official in the state. I review labels and register over 15,000 feed/petfood and over 3,000 fertilizer products. We sample 300 fertilizer products for N-P-K value and 250 feed/petfood products for protein, fat and fiber. In addition, we inspect vegetables at a Coop for quality and condition.