



Cornell University Cooperative Extension

NYS Integrated Pest Management Program Co-Directors Named

Cornell Cooperative Extension is pleased to announce the appointment of Drs. Curtis Petzoldt and Jennifer Grant as co-directors of the New York State Integrated Pest Management (NYS IPM) Program, effective February 1, 2012.

The IPM Program was established in 1985. It helps farmers, schools, businesses, and communities develop sustainable ways to manage pests and to use methods that minimize environmental, health, and economic risks.

In making the announcement Extension Director Dr. Helene Dillard said of Drs. Petzoldt and Grant, "We couldn't think of a better choice. Between them, they have over 50 years of IPM experience."

Petzoldt received his graduate training in plant pathology at the University of California at Davis, and joined NYS IPM in 1985. He has served as both the vegetable IPM coordinator and assistant director. His current projects include an evaluation of cover crops to determine their effect on nematode populations and root disease, and development of a new on-line decision support system for vegetable crops. Reflecting on the appointment, Petzoldt said "Although these are challenging times, I look forward to helping lead the program. IPM remains relevant because it makes both environmental and economic sense".

Grant came to NYS IPM in 1989 from the University of Vermont, and earned her Ph.D. in entomology at Cornell in 2000. She has served the program as an ornamentals IPM specialist, community IPM coordinator and assistant director. A long-term project minimizing pesticide use on golf courses, and a variety of outreach and training that help schools implement IPM are highlights of her recent work. "The NYS IPM program excels at reducing risks from both pests and pesticides on farms, in schools, parks and homes. I'm honored to work with this dedicated group of people".

The current director, Dr. Donald Rutz, completes his six-year term in January. To learn more about NYS IPM, visit <http://www.nysipm.cornell.edu/>



Jennifer Grant and Curt Petzoldt