UConn Extension and Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture



CROP TALK

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EXTENSION & PLANT SCIENCE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



Developing an IPM Plan for San Jose Scale

Evan Lentz Assistant Extension Educator, UConn

Reports and concerns of San Jose Scale have increased in the past couple of years. Although this pest might not be one of the most charismatic or troublesome, they compromise fruit quality and, in instances where they are allowed to establish, pose a significant risk to production. This article will highlight the components of a year-long IPM plan for managing San Jose Scale populations and provides relevant background and resources.

Summary:

San Jose Scale (SJS), Quadraspidiotus pernicious, is a small scale insect introduced to the United States from China in the early 1870s. Since its introduction, it has spread to most of the US and continues to pose key challenges to the fruit industry. Their high reproductive capacity, multiple generations, and small size make them difficult to manage, especially in older orchards with complex architecture that inhibit adequate spray penetration or in locations where populations are allowed to establish unchecked. The best method for managing this pest is preventing populations from getting established in the first place.



Figure 2. San Jose Scale life cycle (WSU Extension)

Figure 1. San Jose Scale damage on apple (Jentsch)

Hosts:

Although most troublesome for apple and pear producers, SJS can also infest sweet cherry, peach, prune, berry bushes, nut trees and some ornamentals.

Description & Life Cycle:

In the Northeast region, San Jose Scale usually has two generations per year. SJS overwinters in their immature blackcap stage on the surfaces of trees and mature to adults during bloom (Figure 2). Males emerge shortly after during petal fall to mate. SJS females begin to give birth to live young, or crawlers, over a six-week period, beginning in early June and continuing until August. Females are prolific and can give birth to up to 400 live young at

a time. The first generation will mature by late July with the second generation of crawlers being produced from late July to early September. Generations often overlap and crawlers can spread easily from tree to tree via wind, wildlife, and human activity. Immature SJS progresses through three stages: crawlers, white cap, and the overwintering black cap stage.

Identification:

Adult males are yellowish tan with a dark band across the back, have wings, and long antennae (Figure 3). Adult females are yellow, wingless, legless, and have a soft globular shaped body about the size of a pin head with a central nipple-like bulge (Figure 4).



Figures 3-4. San Jose Scale Adults - Winged male (left) (Schoof) and female with scale removed (right) (Walgenbach)

Crawlers are lemon-yellow color, have six legs, two antennae, a long beak for feeding, and resemble a spider mite (Figure 5).

Crawlers develop into the white cap stage, secreting a white waxy covering that will mature to a gray-black color.



Figure 5. San Jose Scale crawlers caught in a monitoring trap (Blaauw)



Figure 6. San Jose Crawlers caught in a monitoring trap (Eaton)

Scales are either disk-shaped (females) or oval (males) and are composed of concentric rings of their waxy coating (Figure 6). Depending on the time of year, scales may be a white, gray, or black-brown color.

Damage:

The primary damage from SJS is the result of feeding, which causes a dark/purplish red coloration around the feeding site. These feeding sites often develop a slight depression or sunken appearance. Over time, the feeding sites will grow in size and fade to a lighter red or pink color – making them more difficult to see on red-skinned varieties (Figure 7).

Secondarily, trees with larger infestation of SJS may experience other challenges related to the loss of sap through feeding. These include the production of smaller, immature apples, death of shoots and limbs, cracking or splitting of wood, reduced vigor, reduced yields, and even tree death.



Figure 7. San Jose Scale damage on apple (Krawczyk)

Monitoring:

Pheromone traps can be used to monitor adult male SJS emergence starting at the pink stage. Traps should be placed in areas with established populations or potential infestations and checked weekly. Crawler emergence can also be monitored starting in June. Black electrical tape should be wrapped, sticky side out, on both sides of scale infestation found on branches. A thin layer of petroleum jelly can be spread on the tape. Once crawlers emerge, they will travel across the tape and get caught in the jelly. Although tiny, the yellow SJS crawlers will be visible against the black background of the tape (Figure 5). Scouting for overwintering scale populations on trees can be done during regular off-season activities such as pruning. The <u>NEWA San Jose Scale forecasting model</u> can be used in conjunction with other monitoring efforts to properly time spray applications.

Management:

Cultural – Pruning out infested branches is an effective means of reducing overwinter populations. Additionally, regular pruning serves to improve the penetration of sprays applied later in the year. Chemical – The first chance for chemical control is a dormant or delayed dormant oil application. These oils work to deprive overwintering scales of oxygen and will help to reduce the overwintering population. If monitoring traps confirm the presence of males and populations are high, an insecticide can be applied at early petal fall to control males SJS before they mate with females. In June, once crawler emergence has been confirmed with monitoring traps, insecticides targeting crawlers can be applied. It is recommended that 2 sprays be applied: one at first emergence and one at peak emergence, 7-10 days later. For specific recommendations on materials and rates, please consult the <u>New England Tree Fruit Management Guide</u>. Insecticides need to be rotated.

Biological – There are several species of parasitoid wasps (*Aphytis* and *Encarsia*) that can help to curb populations. However, biological control is insufficient on its own and broad-spectrum insecticides used in the orchard will impact natural biological control.

Developing an IPM Plan for San Jose Scale:

- 1. Scouting during dormant pruning activities can help to locate infested branches and trees. Heavily infested branches can be pruned off and disposed of. If established populations exist, pruning efforts should be directed at opening the canopy to improve spray penetration. Sprayer calibration should be done prior to the start of the season.
- 2.A dormant or delayed dormant oil application can be applied before pink bud stage to reduce overwintering populations.
- 3. Pheromone traps should be placed in areas of concern starting at the pink stage. If initial populations of males are high, an insecticide can be applied at early petal fall to reduce mating.
- 4. The NEWA model should be utilized at this point. Enter location and first adult capture dates into the model for recommendations.
- 5. Starting in June, place black electrical tape around infested branches to monitor for crawler emergence.
- 6. Once crawlers emerge, two sprays should be applied: one at first emergence and another 7-10 days later at peak emergence. Materials must be rotated.
- 7. The NEWA site will assist in determining the timing of the second generation. Second generation crawlers should be monitored in the same way that the first was, utilizing black electrical tape traps.
- 8. Once the second generation emerges, two sprays should be applied: one at first emergence and another 7-10 days later at peak emergence. Materials must be rotated.
- 9. Note should be made of the locations with SJS infestations and if there are varieties that SJS seem to prefer over others. This information can be used to inform your IPM plan in subsequent years.
- 10. Overtime, an adequate IPM plan will help to reduce established populations and prevent new ones from establishing. Once populations have been reduced, adjusting your IPM is recommended. It might not be necessary to employ all the above tactics each year.

References and More Information:

- <u>WSU Extension https://treefruit.wsu.edu/crop-protection/opm/san-jose-scale/</u>
- Penn State Extension https://extension.psu.edu/tree-fruit-insect-pest-san-jose-scale
- MSU Extension <u>https://www.canr.msu.edu/ipm/diseases/san_jose_scale</u>
- New England Tree Fruit Management Guide <u>https://netreefruit.org/homepage</u>
- NEWA San Jose Scale Forecasting Model <u>https://newa.cornell.edu/san-jose-scale</u>

Call for Collaboration: Vegetable Farmers Participatory Research

Shuresh Ghimire UConn Extension Vegetable Specialist

Greetings, farmers! You are not just farmers; you are innovative researchers. When you test a new crop variety, fertilizer, or tool on a small scale, you're conducting important experiments that help you succeed. This hands-on approach gives you valuable insights into what works best for your farm, enabling you to make informed decisions before fully committing.

While university researchers often conduct their trials in small, replicated plots with limited number of "treatments", you, the farmer, implement field-scale methods that reflect real-world conditions. Your approach allows for immediate application of successful strategies, making your trials very relevant and useful to you and fellow farmers. In contrast, academic research can take longer to yield practical findings, as it typically focuses on isolated "treatments" rather than the holistic farming packages you consider.



This year, I've gathered some valuable insights from farmers about few crop varieties, noting that some yielded exceptional results while others significantly underperformed under the same conditions. To strengthen this type of observations and ensure they are statistically meaningful, I invite you to collaborate with me in collecting data that will allow us to make confident inferences applicable to you and other growers.



Here's my plan:

- 1. Identify growers: I'm seeking 6-10 growers who are willing to participate in this collaborative research.
- 2. One-on-one meeting: Together, we will explore new or innovative practices you plan to trial in the 2025 growing season. This could include testing new crop varieties, mulches, fertilizers, pesticides, or something else.
- 3. Designing "experimental plots": We will work together to create "experimental plots" within your rows/field, enabling us to collect statistically robust data. This might involve selecting specific sections of your beds/field for focused data collection.
- 4. In-season data collection: I will regularly visit your farm, at least once a month, to learn from your observations as well as to collect data on plant growth, pest infestations, or any other relevant information.
- 5. Harvest assessment: When it's time to harvest, we will record yield data and assess produce quality, such as measuring soluble sugar levels in pie pumpkins and tomatoes.
- 6. Data compilation and reporting: After gathering data from multiple farms, I will compile the results and produce a report to share with you and other farmers across the state.

What farmers need to provide:

- Initial meeting: A winter or spring 2025 meeting with me to plan and design the trial.
- Data collection permission: Allow me to collect data in the designated plot during the growing season.
- Harvest data: Provide harvest data from the designated plot, or allow me to harvest and weigh the produce, and conduct a quality assessment. But, if you need to harvest before I can collect the data, that will be ok too.

What farmers will gain:

- Valuable data: By participating, we can generate meaningful insights that will benefit you and our farming community.
- Support for trials: If you wish to experiment with a new variety or a tool, I may be able to invest in those resources (up to a several hundred dollars).
- One-on-one consultation: While I am at your farm, I would be happy to look at any other vegetable issues (such as insect pest or disease) you want to discuss and work with you to formulate or revise management plans.
- Mutual benefit: This partnership will allow me, as an educator, to gather significant data that can inform our growers while leveraging limited resources more effectively.
- If you are interested in collaborating, please email me at shuresh.ghimire@uconn.edu or call 959-929-1031 to discuss further. Alternatively, you can fill out this <u>3-question form</u>. Together, let's strengthen our farming community through collaboration and shared knowledge!

Speaking of collaboration... We're Hiring!

<u>Vegetable and Hemp Extension Program Outreach Assistant</u> (Educational Program Assistant 2)

This position provides administrative and programmatic support to the Vegetable and Hemp Extension Program and will perform farm scouting and consultations with growers, and report farm observations and data to Extension faculty in vegetable production to create extension publications. The incumbent will serve a wide variety of farmers statewide and will be trained in scouting techniques, pheromone trap



procedures, and soil sample collection, and then will work independently with support from the faculty as necessary. EPA Worker Protection Standard training will also be provided. Reporting to an Assistant Extension Educator in Vegetable Production, this position will work from Tolland County Extension Center to help extend the reach of the Vegetable and Hemp Extension Program to commercial vegetable and hemp growers in Connecticut.

For more information and to apply, please visit

s.uconn.edu/vhpa2

This job posting is scheduled to close at 11:55 pm EST on October 11, 2024.

The Season for Growth (and Learning!) is Here

As the weather turns crisp and the first frost approaches, it's not just nature making big changes — it's also the perfect time for you to dive into the "learning season!" Our dedicated Solid Ground team has been hard at work, and they're here to help you navigate the coming months with confidence and support. Let's reintroduce you to the team:

- Project Co-Directors: Jiff Martin & Robert Chang
- **Training Coordinators:** Melanie Desch, Saquana Seltzer, Megan Herbert (New to the team – *Welcome, Megan!*)
- Communications Lead: Becca Toms



As a new and beginning farmer program, the UConn Extension Solid Ground program is designed especially folks who have been farming for 10 years or less, but we are always willing to have other farmers join us in understanding new practices. Whether you're seeking to adapt to Climate issues, master a new tool, or level up your business skills, we've got a mix of new sessions and familiar favorites coming your way.

Here's a sneak peek of what's in store this season:

Upcoming Programs:

- Accessing Grant Funding for Your Farm (Virtual)
- Two virtual sessions + one-on-one coaching
- Dates: 11/19 & 12/3
- Intermediate Farm Financials Enterprise Budgeting (In-Person)
- Date: 11/12
- Business of Farming (Hybrid)
- An intensive 6-session course, offered twice
- Starts: 1/2/25 & 2/12/25
- Ag Mechanics Trainings
- Dates coming soon!
- Farm Managers Summit [Save the Date]
- Date: 1/29/25 (Snow Date: 1/30)
- Climate Smart Adaptation Online Class
- Begins November Required to apply for the Climate Smart Adaptations Micro-grant!

Spotlight: Venture Farming Institute

We're also excited to share a partner program, launched last year: **The Venture Farming Institute.**

This initiative supports aspiring BIPOC farmers in CT and RI, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to thrive in our local agricultural landscape. The program offers:

- Online trainings and farm field days
- Hands-on agricultural skills development
- Support in accessing grants, NRCS resources, equipment shares, etc.
- Advocacy training rooted in social justice
- Opportunities to expand your farming network

Applications open in October for a limited number of spots, so keep an eye out!

With so many opportunities on the horizon, it can be hard to keep track! Stay updated by visiting our <u>Solid Ground</u> <u>Website</u>, or sign up for our listserv <u>here</u> to get all the latest updates delivered straight to your inbox.

<u>Announcements</u>

UCONN EXTENSION ORNAMENTAL & TURF SHORT COURSE

OCTOBER 9 - DECEMBER 18, 2024

Held Virtually Every Wednesday 5:30-7:30 pm

REGISTRATION COST: \$400.00

Registration cost includes 2 manuals and class materials

REGISTER HERE

This Short Course is an in-depth review of the information necessary to pass the Ornamental and Turf/Golf Course Superintendents State of Connecticut Supervisory Pesticide Applicator Certification (category 3A) exam. This short course consists of eight modules that the student can complete independently. An instructor will meet virtually with the students weekly to review each module topic and answer questions. Expect to spend study time reviewing each module topic outside of the review class.



MORE INFORMATION AT IPM.CAHNR.UCONN.EDU/PESTICIDE-COURSE



Questions? Email tolland@uconn.edu or call 860-875-3331

The University of Connecticut complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding non-discrimination, equal opportunity and affirmative action, including the provision of reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. Extension program participants with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations to address limitations resulting from a disability. For more information, please contact the UConn Extension at Xension at extensioncivitrights@uconn.edu

(Click/tap for more information)

Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy's (NCLC) final round of implementation grants is now open!



Founded in 1965, Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy is the state's largest land trust. As a guardian of natural and working lands, public recreation areas, and drinking water resources, NCLC permanently protects 13,300 acres (and growing) of vast, connected natural areas in Litchfield and northern Fairfield Counties.

The maximum award for this grant is \$50,000. The minimum award is \$1,000. NCLC will prioritize funding opportunities within the range of \$5,000-\$20,000.

The submission deadline is November 30th.

Eligible applicants must operate working farmland or a farm business in NCLC's service area, which includes all of Litchfield County and Brookfield, Newtown, and Sherman in Fairfield County.

The following individuals and entities are eligible for funding:

- Agricultural producers and agricultural cooperatives
- Land trusts
- Municipalities
- Non-profit organizations

The application form and program guidance can be found at <u>https://ctland.org/climate-smart-grant/implementation-grant/</u>

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Finer Fruits Through Co-operative Efforts Since 1891

	Mary Concklin President	Greg Parzych Vice-President	Erica Teveris Secretary-Treasurer		
		Annual Meeting Fuesday, December 3, 20 Middletown Elks Lodg 44 Maynard St, Middletown,)24 ge CT		
8:00	Registration, Socialized	e, coffee, pastries, Visit with	vendors		
9:00-9:45	New Insights on the Biology and Control of Fireblight. Dr. Quan Zeng, CAES				
9:45-10:15	New Thinning and Apple Scab Control Products from Valent USA. Jim Wargo, Valent				
10:15-10:30	Break – Visit with Vendors				
10:30-11:00	Optimizing Insect Pest Management Strategies in Tree Fruit Production. Peter Jentsch, PomaTech Inc				
11:00-11:30	Creating a Marketing Plan. Brian Moyer, Penn State University				
11:30-12:00	Apple Cold Hardiness, Climate Change and Tree Decline. Dr. Jason Londo, Cornell				
12:00-1:00	Lunch				
1:00-1:30	Business meeting, Award presentations Apple marketing board update: Erin Windham, CT Department of Agriculture Financial report: Erica Teveris Award of Merit: Mary Concklin - presenter Award of Distinction: Ryan Bishop - presenter				
1:30-2:00	Investing in Your Success: Fundamentals of Pricing for Farm Markets. Brian Moyer				
2:00-2:15	Crop Insurance Update. Colleen Kisselburgh, Arthur Carroll Insurance				
2:15-3:00	Herbicide Alternatives: Grower panel. Trevor Hardy – Brookdale Fruit Farms, Eric Henry – Blue Hills Orchard, Peter Rogers – Rogers Orchards				
3:00-3:30	Spotted Wing Drosophila Parasitoid Project Update. Dr. Claire Rutledge, CAES				
3:30	Pesticide Credits and	l Socialize			
This Program	Direction 3.5 pesticide re-certific n is a cooperative effort	s to the Middletown Elks Lod ation credits have been applie of The CT Pomological Society	ge are below ed for. UConn Extension		

EXTENSION & PLANT SCIENCE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference and Trade Show

The New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference and Trade Show will take place on **December 17, 18, and 19** at the Doubletree by Hilton Manchester Downtown in Manchester, NH. The event will feature 30 educational sessions over three days, focusing on key topics related to vegetable, berry, and tree fruit crops. Sessions will also cover special topics such as climate resiliency, winter growing, labor management, and cut flower production. The popular "Farmer-to-Farmer" information-sharing sessions will bring speakers and farmers together for informal, in-depth discussions on timely issues of interest to growers. The conference also includes an extensive Trade Show with over 150 exhibitors, a poster session showcasing student research, and social mixers to encourage networking among attendees.

The educational program runs across three days, with five concurrent sessions held each morning and afternoon:

- Tuesday, December 17: Sessions will cover sweet corn, strawberries, apples, cut flowers, cucurbits, stone fruit, organic production, equipment, and vegetable technology.
- Wednesday, December 18: Topics include climate resiliency, specialty fruits and vegetables, leafy greens, post-harvest handling, reduced tillage, and more.
- Thursday, December 19: Sessions will focus on tomatoes, winter growing, blueberries, protected culture, marketing, agricultural labor, and more.
- Special sessions include tax preparation for farmers, farm succession planning with Land For Good, WPS train-the-trainer certification, and fourteen farmer-tofarmer sessions.



The steering committee has curated a lineup of expert speakers from both the region and across the country to present the latest innovations and advancements in local fruit and vegetable production and sales. Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with fellow growers, advisors, researchers, and industry representatives, and leave with new ideas and information that can positively impact their farms.

See next page for registration information

New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference and Trade Show

Registration Information:

- Pre-registration fee: \$115 per person; \$50 for students (high school or college). Students must show a valid student ID when picking up their registration packet.
- Deadline: Pre-registration must be completed by November 30, 2024. After this date, the fee increases to \$145 (\$70 for students). Late or walk-in registration is \$160.
- Accommodations: Overnight stays at the Doubletree are available at \$142 per night. To book, call 603-625-1000 and mention the event, or visit Accommodation Information. Additional local accommodation options at a variety of price points can be found here.
- Assistance: For physical, language, or financial assistance, please contact Olivia Saunders at 603-447-3834 or Olivia.Saunders@unh.edu at least three weeks prior to the event, and every effort will be made to accommodate your needs. A block of rooms is reserved for attendees requiring on-site accommodations for mobility reasons. For more details, including online and downloadable registration materials, visit New England Vegetable and Fruit Conference website.

Contacts:

- Any technical issues with registration/payments: University Events & Conference Services: <u>conferences@uconn.edu</u>; 860-486-1038
- General questions: Sue Scheufele, UMass (General Chair) 508-397-3361; <u>sscheufele@umext.umass.edu</u>; or Shuresh Ghimire (Registration Chair) UConn; <u>shuresh.ghimire@uconn.edu</u>; 959-929-1031

Sponsors:

The event is Sponsored by the New England Vegetable & Berry Growers' Association and the Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association in conjunction with the Universities of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont, as well as Cornell University, Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association and the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

UCONN EXTENSION

VEGETABLE & SMALL FRUIT GROWERS CONFERENCE TRADE SHOW & SPONSOR REGISTRATION

January 7, 2025 UConn Student Union | Storrs, Connecticut

Trade Show Registration: \$195.00

Includes a 6 six-foot table space and one attendant registration

Silver Sponsor: \$100.00

Includes business card size advertisement in conference program

Gold Sponsor: \$250.00

Includes 1 regular registration & 1/4 page advertisement in conference program

Platinum Sponsor: \$500.00

Includes 1 trade show registration, 1 regular registration (2 people total) & 1/2 page advertisement in conference program

Any business, farm, organization or individual can be a conference sponsor. Sponsors do not have attend the conference.

REGISTER AT:

s.uconn.edu/fvctradesponsorreg

Questions? Email tolland@uconn.edu or call 860-875-3331

UConn Extension's 2025 Vegetable and Small Fruit Growers' Conference

Save the date! January 7, 2025 UConn Student Union

2110 Hillside Rd, Storrs, CT 06268

Tentative Agenda

- Emerging trends in vegetable and fruit production
- High tunnel/winter growing
- Weed management in strawberry
- Adding value to the produce
- Growers panel Sweet corn production, what's new and innovative!
- Freight farm- will it fit in your operation?
- Managing anthracnose crown rot of strawberries

Pesticide recertification credits and socializing hour. 4 CEU to be confirmed.

We are anticipating 35 vendors for the trade show exhibition, which will be taking place throughout the day.

Registration prices will be coming shortly and registration will open soon.

Contact <u>tolland@uconn.edu</u>, (860) 875-3331 if you have any questions!

The University of Connecticut and CT Agricultural Experiment Station are equal opportunity program providers and employers. Please call three weeks prior to this event if special accommodations are needed.



EXTENSION & PLANT SCIENCE AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



UConn Extension 2025 Online Vegetable Production Certificate Course

We're offering a Vegetable Production Certificate Course, beginning mid- January 2025



This is a fully online course for new and beginning farmers who have 0-3 years of vegetable growing experience or no formal training in agriculture. The participants will learn answers to the basic questions about farm business planning, planning and preparing for a vegetable farm, warm- and cool-season vegetable production techniques, season extension, identification of biotic and abiotic issues, and marketing.

The price of the course is \$149.

Please contact the course coordinator, Shuresh Ghimire (<u>Shuresh.Ghimire@uconn.edu</u>, 860-870-6933) with any questions about this course. <u>Last year's course information is available here.</u>

Registration will be open in early November Stay tuned!

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