



Ground School Lesson: Pest and Disease Management

Aims & Objectives

- Understand the IPM strategies and its advance from previous strategies
- Understand distinction between organic and conventional management relating to pest and disease
- Understand how pest and disease management can be affected by agroecological design
- Become familiar with key disease and pest issues for specific crops at Gathering Ground's Lake View and Aznoe Farms

Set intention: Have a 15-20 min conversation, pose a question like “How do we partner with nature to manage pests?”

Lecture: 30 minutes Discuss specific pest issues at Aznoe and Lake View using IPM strategies. Explain the activity, why it is necessary, and why you use the technique you do.

- Pesticide safety
- Spotted wing drosophyla: case study
- Botany of Desire: chapter on potatoes
- Fungal disease handout for grapes

Activity:

- Have teams of 2 or 3 to research specific pests, recognize what the damage from their pest looks like and how to prevent it.
- Send the teams out to look for pest damage, come up with prevention strategies, and be ready to report findings to the group.
- Have a group conversation about findings, thoughts on strategies, what challenges were faced during research or discovery, etc.
- Check rose chafer traps set the week prior.

“Walk Away Thoughts”:

- How can pest/disease management be affected by agroecological design?

- What are the benefits of utilizing IPM strategies and how does it compare to conventional management?
- What aspects would you need to consider to create your own IPM strategy?
- If there was one thing you could do to improve GG's IPM strategy, what would it be and why?



This material is based upon work that is supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under agreement number 2023-38640-39573 through the North Central Region SARE program under project number YECN23-203. USDA is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and should not be construed to represent any official USDA or U.S. Government determination or policy.