



IMPACT ON ALASKA'S HASKAP BERRIES

ISSUE – DEFOLIATION OF HASKAP SHOOTS

- Haskap (aka “honeyberry”) is an increasingly popular cold-hardy ornamental shrub grown for its edible berries in Alaska.
- In May 2022, several growers reported heavy defoliation of haskap shoots to the University of Alaska Fairbanks Integrated Pest Management Program (AK IPM).
- Little had been known of insect pests on haskaps: known management strategies largely focused on birds and powdery mildew.
- Diagnosticians identified the defoliating caterpillar as the non-native honeysuckle moth (*Ypsolopha dentella*).



Figure 1. Late-instar honeysuckle moth caterpillar on a haskap shoot.



Figure 2. Early-instar honeysuckle moth caterpillars feeding inside a silk-tied haskap shoot.

RESPONSE

- AK IPM diagnosticians worked quickly to identify and map honeysuckle moth caterpillars across Southcentral Alaska.
- Diagnosticians evaluated the phenology of the honeysuckle moth in Alaska and used that data to inform monitoring recommendations.

OUTCOMES

- AK IPM increased outreach focus on awareness of when to monitor for and how to identify and manage this non-native defoliator of haskaps and ornamental honeysuckles.
- This work also contributed to a broader understanding of the insect pest issues that impact haskap production.

“Supplemental funding from the National Plant Diagnostic Network allowed our lab to expand our DNA-based diagnostic capabilities.” – Alexandria Wenninger, University of Alaska Fairbanks Institute of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Extension, Integrated Pest Management Program
