

Biological control of cabbage Lepidoptera in New York State

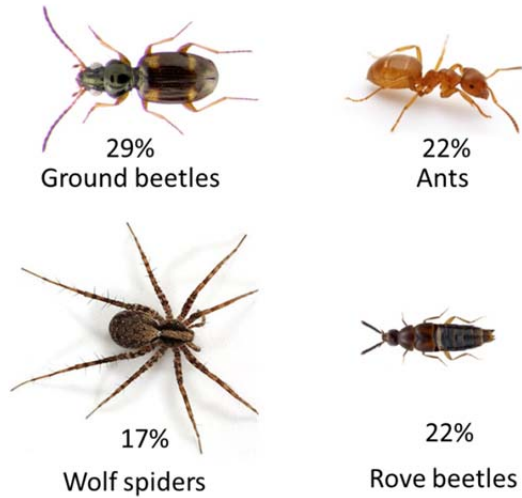
Tree Gate Farm



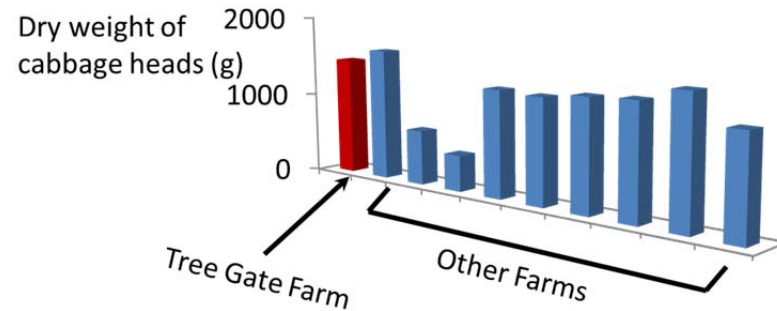
The diamondback moth, imported cabbageworm and cabbage looper are major pests of cabbage in the northeast region of the US. Because insecticide use continues to be the primary means for managing this pest complex and the threat of insecticide resistance exists especially for the diamondback moth and cabbage looper, alternative strategies for managing these pests are needed. Biological control by naturally-occurring predatory insects and spiders is an ecologically friendly and sustainable approach to pest management. However, biological control is underutilized in cabbage, in part because we know very little about the diversity of insect predators and their potential for caterpillar control. The central objectives of our project were to document the diversity of predatory insects in cabbage fields in upstate New York and to determine how variation in predator abundance affects pest control and yield.

Please check out some of the preliminary findings in the [Tree Gate Farm](#) below!

Main predators groups found in the Tree Gate Farm



Cabbage yield in the Tree Gate Farm compared with other farms



Natural infestation by caterpillars pest in the Tree Gate Farm compared with other farms

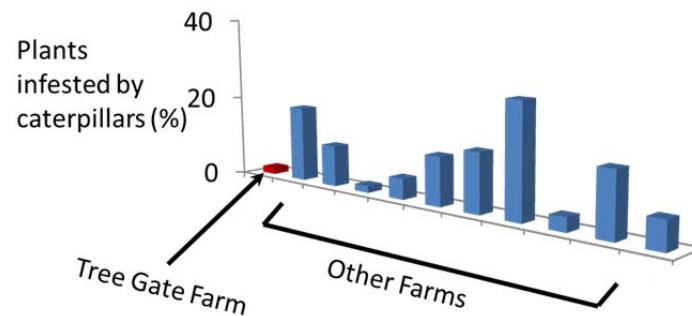


Photo credits:

Henri Goulet Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada Copyright ©
 Africa Gómez <http://abugblog.blogspot.com/2013/08/male-harvestman.html>
http://wiki.spinnen-forum.de/index.php?title=Pardosa_amentata
 U.Schmidt, Copyright © 2009 Jim Cane, © alexanderwild.com