



Photo by T. Cook

Geographic Distribution and Local Incidence of Invasive Crane Flies in the Northeast

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Objective

Ascertain how widespread the European crane fly and common crane fly are in New York and determine how widespread the crane flies are at each local site of establishment.

Summary

European and common crane flies are of European origin and have been detected in New York. Crane flies can cause extensive damage to turfgrass by feeding on below- and above-ground portions of the grass.

Golf course fairways, tees, and greens were scouted for European and common crane flies in spring and fall along two north-south corridors and one east-west corridor in New York State. At eight golf courses where crane flies had established, greens and tees throughout the golf course were scouted in spring and fall to determine the extent of establishment.



Photo by R. Ferrentino

Results

- European and common crane flies are invasive pests of turfgrass and are becoming established in New York.
- These results have established a baseline that will be useful in monitoring change in crane fly establishment in the Northeast.
- In New York, common crane fly is more widespread geographically than European crane fly, but not more widespread locally.
- Both species were absent between western New York and Long Island, indicating that there may have been two separate establishments in New York.

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