



*Advocating for progressive integrated pest management to improve environmental, social and economic conditions through the application of scientific principles.*

## **IPM is Critical to Speciality Crops**

American agriculture is in danger of losing a tool that is critical to its profitability – Integrate Pest Management, or IPM. IPM is a sustainable approach that uses cultural, physical, biological and when necessary, chemical approaches to protect crops and communities from pests, and minimize risks to health and environment.

### **The IPM Budget Crisis**

Basic IPM research has dropped from \$11 million in 2010 to \$4 million in the administration's FY 2013 budget request. Over the same time period, overall USDA NIFA funding is up 16%.

### **Why IPM Matters**

#### **IPM Increases Profitability**

From apples to potatoes to soybeans in every region of the country, IPM has increased farmer income by increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of pest management. IPM is especially critical to the high value specialty crops industry.

#### **IPM Protects Against Invasive Pests**

In 2004, Asian soybean rust first threatened soybean production. IPM professionals responded and developed a monitoring and alert system that has protected the soybean crops and saved soybean farmers over \$1 billion.

#### **IPM Preserves Pest Control Options**

Pests eventually become resistant to the effects of virtually any pesticide. IPM systems reduce the speed and frequency of resistance development by weeds, insects and diseases.

#### **IPM Preserves Confidence in the Safety of the U.S. Food System**

IPM meets consumer demands for minimum pesticide use and residues. IPM works where organic does not because of weather-related disease pressure and limited organic control options. IPM in agriculture allows access to an increased cheap, reliable and safe food supply grown within the US.

#### **Saves Federal Tax Dollars**

By protecting agriculture against pest and disease outbreaks, IPM reduces yield losses that would otherwise increase the costs of the crop insurance program. The Asian soybean rust system was supported by USDA RMA because it not only reduces risks to growers; it also reduces potential for crop insurance claims due to damage from this disease.

### **Examples of IPM Successes in Specialty Crops**

#### **Pecans**

**Pecan growers** estimated gains of \$268/acre from a new multi-states system representing a potential benefit of **\$77 million** for the 288,000 acres in participating states. <http://pecan.ipmpipe.org/index.cfm>

Estimates from Cucurbit ipmPIPE participants (**cucumber, pumpkin, squash growers**) suggest that during 2009, an epidemic year for downy mildew, cucurbit producers used ipmPIPE data to target fungicide applications and protect crop yields, saving **\$24 million dollars** in fungicides not applied.

### **California**

**IPM and spotted wing drosophila (SWD)** was first found in California in Fall, 2008, and 1/3 of California's **cherry** crop was destroyed by this insect in 2009. IPM research and extension specialists at the University of California pulled together a large team of reducers to address the problem on **berry, cherry and other fruit crops**, so the crops could be marketed.

### **Florida**

The University of Florida IPM program developed a system of using UV-reflective mulch on **tomato** fields in 2000. This system reduced the incidence of tomato spotted wilt virus by as much as 45 percent, boosting farm income by about **\$1,000 per acre**.

### **Northeast**

In a survey of 682 **apple** growers about the Network for Environment and Weather Applications (NEWA), farmers reported that they save **\$19,500** a year on average in spray costs and prevent \$264,000 a year in crop loss as a direct result of using NEWA pest forecast models. NEWA is a weather-station-based forecasting system for the Northeast established by New York State IPM program and the Northeastern IPM Center.

### **Georgia**

**Peach** growers in GA save **\$6-10** million dollars per year in reduced losses to brown rot disease by using real-time fungicide resistance management programs.

### **Alabama**

Surveys indicated IPM adoption saves an average of **\$5,680** per **vegetable** farm.

The Kentucky **Nursery** Update newsletter provided over 300 growers and Extension Agents with timely information generated as a result of the weekly scouting sessions. Growers responded that they saved an average of **\$4,700 per nursery** from information included in the newsletter.

### **Virginia**

The Virginia **Potato** Disease Advisory helped growers protect 6,000 acres of Irish potatoes from diseases while eliminating five fungicide applications, a savings of \$300,000 in unnecessary inputs or about **\$50 per acre**.

*This information was collected from state IPM and national IPM sources by IPM Voice. [www.ipmvoice.org](http://www.ipmvoice.org). For more information, contact Jim Cubie [jimcubie@gmail.com](mailto:jimcubie@gmail.com) 843-928-3702.*