United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS

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Locating Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Guidance

NRCS may, through the conservation planning process, assist clients to adopt IPM techniques that protect natural resources.

IPM includes a combination of prevention, avoidance, monitoring and suppression techniques. Examples of the techniques are shown below.

Prevention

- Avoid conditions favorable for disease development
- Practice good sanitation (i.e. disinfect equipment and tools, remove infested plant debris, etc.)
- Rouge out alternate pest hosts

Avoidance

- Crop rotation
- Pest resistant plants
- Trap crops
- Pheromone traps
- Time planting to avoid pests
- Segregate infested plants
- Row covers or screening for greenhouses

Monitoring

- Scout plantings for signs or symptoms of pests
- Keep up-to-date with survey and/or forecasting and advisory information
- Keep records of pests, their location, population levels, incidence, etc.

Suppression-- use in conjunction with other IPM tactics when:

- Preventative tactics cannot contain pests to acceptable levels
- When pest population/incidence has reached a threshold level
- When forecasting models/advisories issue a control recommendation

IPM Guidelines

IPM Guidelines developed by a Land Grant Institutions can be used as checklists for farmers to evaluate their on-farm pest management programs and identify areas where management can be improved. IPM Guidelines may also be use to verify and document that IPM is practiced on the farm.

The University of Massachusetts has developed IPM Guidelines for specific crops and may be used to assist producers to adopt IPM techniques. These are available at the following URL, http://www.umass.edu/umext/ipm/publications/guidelines/index.html, for the following crops:

1. Apple
2. Blueberry-highbush
3. Cole crops
4. Pepper
5. Poinsetta
6. Potato
7. Pumpkin & Squash
8. Raspberry
9. Strawberry
10. Sweetcorn
11. Tomato-field
12. Tomato-greenhouse
13. Wine Grape

Cornell has developed similar IPM guidelines available at the following URL http://nysipm.cornell.edu/elements/ for the following commodities. Producers need to achieve 80% of points.

1. Alfalfa and Field Corn
2. Apples
3. Asparagus
4. Beans, dry
5. Beans, snap
6. Beets
7. Blueberries
8. Brussels sprouts
9. Cabbage
10. Carrots
11. Cauliflower
12. Cherries, sweet
13. Cucumber, Melon, and Summer squash
14. Greenhouses
15. Grapes
16. Lettuce
17. Onions
18. Peas
19. Peppers
20. Potatoes
21. Rasperries
22. Strawberries
23. Sweet corn, fresh market
24. Sweetcorn, processing
25. Tomatoes, fresh market
26. Tomatoes, greenhouse
27. Winter squash and pumpkins

Formal IPM Guidelines referenced here include a numeric scoring system. These scoring systems can be used evaluate benchmark IPM practices and to identify techniques that the producer may agree to adopt. For the purposes of 595, Pest Management, a producer completed worksheet, with the appropriate score, will qualify as an Integrated Pest Management Plan to be implemented by the producer.

When a producer wants to practice IPM on a crop for which IPM guidelines are not available, a generic IPM plan tool, developed by *Kathy Murray of the Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources,* may be used as a guide for develop integrated pest management (IPM) guidance. The generic tool can be found at this URL:
http://www.umass.edu/umext/ipm/publications/guidelines/ipm_plan_tool.html