



Regional Integrated Pest Management Centers: Impacts

Improving Health and Safety

The nation's four Regional IPM Centers keep integrated pest management at the forefront by working with land grant colleges and other organizations to...

Reduce the risks of managing pests

In the past year we've funded about 120 projects, disbursing Center and Regional monies to scientists and extension educators who are working on practical ways to reduce the economic, environmental, and human health risks associated with managing pests.

Provide a return on federal investment

We build partnerships and joint projects among key groups, like the USDA, the EPA, state IPM leaders, growers, scientists, and businesses. These collaborations reduce duplication and allow us all to draw from a rich pool of expertise, amplifying both public and private resources.

Avert crises from new or invasive pests

We inform public and private sectors about threats to crops and human health through email lists, newsletters, on-line bulletin boards, and coordinated long-distance education programs. The Centers also provide leadership on pest alerts (nearly 800,000 printed), delivering timely information on critical pests such as soybean rust and West Nile virus.

Protect the nation's food supply

The Centers play a key role in recognizing and overcoming threats to agriculture. Through our stakeholder networks and links to diagnostic laboratories, we can quickly notify Homeland Security contacts about the presence of new pathogens and pests. More important, when a threat is detected, the Centers are uniquely qualified to answer the crucial question "then what?" IPM experts can offer powerful crop protection tools, from conventional pesticides to innovative biological and cultural controls.

Promote sound, science-based decisions

The Centers provide free public access to expertise and information that helps people target pests with nonchemical and prudent chemical approaches. In the Northeast, growers and others asked for a central web location for IPM information; we delivered.

Our new, easy-to-use website organizes IPM-related resources, such as pest fact sheets and field guides, into searchable databases.

Address real-world needs

When making funding and policy decisions, we listen to growers and help them to develop pest management plans that identify their priorities. These plans help funding agencies direct resources toward research and education projects that promise the greatest benefit. The Western IPM Center has produced 86 crop profiles and 16 pest management strategic plans that will guide future IPM work.

Be the "voice of IPM" for the nation

IPM Centers create strong links with IPM users and others who care about how pests are managed. Our advisory committees and working groups actively guide and participate in Center activities, with more than 60 representatives from the private sector and nearly 130 from public institutions. Some of the participants:

- growers and processors;
 - pest control professionals;
 - homeowners;
 - food retailers;
 - consumer and environmental groups;
 - federal and state policymakers and regulators;
 - educators and researchers.
- (over)*



Regional IPM Centers, through a variety of research and education projects, help to reduce risks and improve the quality of our environment.



Regional IPM Centers are helping educate the nation about soybean rust.

Because of the Regional IPM Centers...

- Farmers, consultants and Extension staff are **prepared for Asian soybean rust**, a devastating disease of soybeans and other legumes that recently arrived in America. The Southern and North Central Centers developed and distributed 450,000 printed copies of Soybean Rust National Pest Alert; organized successful workshops; and sent specialists to Brazil to learn first-hand how to manage the disease.
- The Home and Garden Information Center in Maryland has, in four years, **responded to 11,000 email inquiries** about home and garden pests. In their recent survey, 86% of gardeners who contacted them could correctly identify pest problems after the contact; 70% chose to not apply pesticides. The Center maintains an active website that is pertinent to the clientele they serve: all 50 states and Washington, D.C.
- Potato growers in Idaho are using **Best Management Practices** in their fields and offices, applying concepts identified during a Pacific Northwest workshop. The Western IPM Center's Pacific Northwest Workgroup is also partnering with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to expand a nutrient management model. The goal? To add an IPM component, based on science and current information, that will reduce risk. Other states are now using this model, too, a prime example of Centers working nationally.
- Five agencies provided a **coordinated response to Sudden Oak Death**, a disease that devastates trees and shrubs. After infected plant material was accidentally shipped to new areas in the U.S., the North Central Region helped the IPM Centers, National Plant Diagnostic Network,

National Plant Board, USDA Forest Service, and USDA-APHIS to develop and conduct a national training session that taught Master Gardeners, diagnosticians, and regulatory and extension personnel from 40 states how to be proactive.

- California wine grape growers developed Best Management Practices with the Western Center and are **reducing sulfur dust drift** and improving air quality.

In the coming year

- Homeowners in many southern states need to know how to **fend off imported fire ants**. An educational bulletin funded by the Southern Region IPM Center will cover key information for several states—a collaboration that will avoid wasteful duplication of effort by the individual state programs.



Imported red fire ants invading this boot—and the south—deliver a wasp-like sting. The Southern Region IPM Center is helping people learn about it.

- Regional IPM Centers are **sponsoring symposia** on such topics as urban IPM and water quality, which involve stakeholders, identify their needs, and set priorities to be addressed through Center programs.
- IPM Centers will **help plan, fund, and carry out the 5th National IPM Symposium** in St. Louis, Missouri, offering an opportunity for people nationwide to share their IPM expertise.

Current Funding

\$4.1 million/year (with cap of 19% on indirect costs)

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