

Michigan Integrated Pest Management Alliance



The Michigan Integrated Pest Management Alliance is a consortium of commodity groups and food processors throughout the state. They have united in their promotion of IPM research and implementation efforts throughout the state and the Midwest.

The activities of the IPM Alliance are focused in four main areas. The number one function of the group is to promote the adoption of IPM techniques and technologies throughout the state.

The highlight of the year has been the Decision-Makers' Tour sponsored by the IPM Alliance and Michigan State University. This annual event is designed to bring policy makers from the state and federal government to visit with Michigan growers in their fields and orchards. This provides them with the opportunity to experience firsthand what challenges and successes the growers deal with every day. Since the tours began in 1993, the participants have enjoyed an open dialog with the growers and the Alliance. The growers realize that the people from the federal and state government are interested in the issues that effect the growers. The guests on the tour hear first hand how the decisions that they make every day effect real people. Participants on the 2001 tour came from the federal EPA, USDA, Region 5 EPA and the Michigan Department of Agriculture.



Golf Course Stewardship Presentation from the 2001 Decision-Maker's Tour near Traverse City, Michigan



Carrot Disease Prediction Weather Station - MSU

The group also makes every effort to facilitate the research and adoption of IPM within the state. This is accomplished by endorsing IPM research through letters of support, assuming the responsibilities of a fiscal agent for IPM or Integrated Crop Management research grants and by communicating to its members the issues that affect their industry. In the past year alone, the Alliance has supported

the RAMP grant for apples and peaches and the GREEN grants for the sustainable management of Japanese beetle in blueberries and sustainable grape production in Michigan. The group also supported a SARE proposal for training IPM scouts and a North Central IPM grant for the development of pest management pocket guides for stone fruit and grapes.



MSU entomologists scouting peaches

The Alliance supports IPM by providing input for both the State IPM Coordinator position and the Tree Fruit IPM Integrator. Providing direction to the University through the selection process for each position helps to ensure that an individual will be chosen that can work with both the University and the Michigan agricultural industry. Both positions are considered vital to the long-term expansion of IPM in the state for the tree fruit industry as well as the larger plant production agriculture industry throughout the state. Direct communication with both individuals ensures that the industry has input into the decisions that effect IPM implementation in the state.

The group is actively seeking new members because the strength of the group increases with additional members. While most of the members of the Alliance are associated with the fruit and vegetable industry, there are still a number of horticultural and agricultural groups throughout the state that could benefit from becoming members. The recent addition of the Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association highlights the efforts of the Alliance to reach out to other horticultural groups.

Today, there are 22 members of the Michigan IPM Alliance including:

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| Cherry Marketing Institute | Michigan Vegetable Council |
| Michigan Apple Committee | Michigan Plum Advisory Board |
| Michigan Potato Industry Commission | Michigan Corn Growers Association |
| Michigan Department of Agriculture | Michigan State Horticulture Society |
| Gerber Products Company | Michigan Onion Committee |
| Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association | Michigan Fresh Carrot Committee |
| Michigan Blueberry Growers Association | Michigan Celery Promotion Co-op |
| Michigan Asparagus Advisory Board | MI Pear Research Association |
| Michigan State University | Pickle Packers International Inc. |
| National Grape Cooperative | Potato Growers of Michigan |
| AgriLink Foods, Inc. | West Central Crop Management Association |