

The North Central Fruit and Field Crop IPM Tools are detailed IPM elements and guidelines tailored to address specific Integrated Pest Management (IPM) needs of growers in the north central region. They offer a concise list of IPM practices for different fruit and field crops and include a list of resources that NRCS staff, Technical Service Providers (TSPs), crop advisors and growers can use to answer additional questions about IPM practices. In addition to providing crop-specific IPM practices, the tools also contains a list of generic IPM practices that can be applied to all fruit and field crops grown in the north central region. IPM elements and guidelines are important tools that enhance the on-farm evaluation of pest management practices and have many identified uses:

- Address strategies outlined in NRCS's 595 IPM standard, with the purpose of preventing or mitigating natural resource concerns from pest management practices. Strategies used in 595 IPM standard are: pest prevention, pest avoidance, pest monitoring and pest suppression (PAMS). Following the PAMS approach, the tools can effectively help identify appropriate IPM practices for the selected crops.
- Qualify producers for incentive and technical assistance programs through NRCS, for e.g., Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), (Conservation Stewardship Program) CSP, Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs).
- Help growers identify additional IPM and other conservation practices appropriate for their crop and region.
- Self-assessment component of the tools to measure how many of the available practices are in use on a specific farm or field.
- Identify which practices have low adoption and thus may need work to improve usability or benefits to growers.
- Serve as a template for the creation of additional IPM elements and guidelines to address localized resource concerns. Further information about IPM elements and guidelines can be found in the *Guide to IPM Elements and Guidelines* by Dr. Tom Green, IPM Institute of North America, Inc. and Dr. Curt Petzoldt, Cornell University. The guide is available on the National IPM Centers website: <http://www.ipmcenters.org/ipmelements/index.cfm>

The Northeastern IPM Center's Vegetable IPM tool was used as the template for the North Central Fruit and Field Crop tools. These tools have been developed by the North Central NRCS & IPM working group as a resource for NRCS staff, TSPs, crop advisors and growers. The North Central IPM working group is multi-state and multi-disciplinary and includes university extension, state offices of NRCS, state lead agencies, EPA, and industry. The working group's goal is to help fulfill NRCS's mission of, "Helping people help the land" by encouraging the adoption of IPM through participation in conservation programs administered through NRCS. For more information, please visit the NRCS & IPM working group website: <http://www.ipm.msu.edu/work-group/home.htm>

IPM is the most effective means of addressing resource concerns that are generated through pest management practices. Effective IPM requires growers to be proactive in understanding the implications of their pest management decisions and in doing so growers depend on NRCS for technical assistance. The development of these tools addresses the need to provide NRCS staff with more resources to expand their working knowledge of IPM practices and offer improved technical assistance to growers.

Questions or comments about the North Central Fruit and Field Crop IPM Tools can be sent to: Peter Werts, project assistant, IPM Institute of North America, Inc., 4510 Regent St. Madison, WI 53705 or by email: pwerts@ipminstitute.org

For more information about the IPM Institute, please visit www.ipminstitute.org