



University of  
Connecticut

College of Agriculture  
and Natural Resources

## UConn's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program

Jude Boucher, Extension Educator, UConn Department of Extension

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a sustainable approach to pest management. IPM involves the coordinated use of biological and environmental information to design and implement pest control methods that are economically, environmentally, and socially sound.

IPM emphasizes proper pest identification and biology, preventative management techniques, population scouting and monitoring, the use of action thresholds to determine if additional control measures are warranted, and record keeping.

Management techniques include: cultural, physical, mechanical, biological, genetic, regulatory, and chemical control methods. Chemicals are used as a last resort, only when pest populations reach levels that will cause economic damage. When necessary, selective pesticides that spare non-target organisms and have few detrimental environmental or health characteristics are recommended over broad-spectrum materials, and proper resistance management and application techniques are emphasized.

Past UConn IPM Programs have instructed farmers, teachers, and resource managers in the following areas: Vegetables, Small Fruit, Tree Fruit, Greenhouse, Turf, Nurseries, Field Crops, Vineyards, Home Grounds, Invasive Species, and IPM Curriculum in the Classroom (Grades K-8). Additional opportunities may include Urban Pest Management (see [www.hort.uconn.edu/ipm/](http://www.hort.uconn.edu/ipm/)).

The program has been supported by a combination of hard and soft funded positions, competitive grants, federal and state dollars, contracts, and the Bingham Trust.

The Vegetable Crops Sustainable Ag & IPM Program teaches growers how to use a comprehensive management program against a complex of major and minor pests of all types (insects, mites, weeds, diseases, vertebrates, etc.) for each major commodity on the farm. Comprehensive programs are available for sweet corn, peppers, tomatoes, eggplant, squash, cucumbers, pumpkins, melons, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower and beans. The program also covers sustainable production practices, such as nutrient management and reduced tillage.



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[www.cag.uconn.edu](http://www.cag.uconn.edu)

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Growers and others are trained through a wide variety of program delivery methods:

- Full-season, on-farm IPM training (12-24 growers/season)
- Weekly telephone/web site Pest Message (2,000 calls/hits/season)
- Crop Talk: Commercial Vegetable & Fruit Growers' Newsletter (860/ mailing)
- New England Vegetable Management Guide (1,500 copies biannually, also on web)
- New England Vegetable & Fruit Conference & Trade Show (1,300-1,400 attend)
- CT Vegetable & Small Fruit Growers' Conference (165 attend)
- Annual Farm Twilight Meeting Series (up to 80 attend)
- Biannual Greenhouse Tomato Conference (175 attend)
- Special topic conferences (i.e. Deep Zone-Tillage & Soil Health)(up to 150 attend)
- Guest lectures throughout the region and country
- Support UConn IPM Web Site (>450,000 hits/yr)
- Applied research program (write/support up to 6 grants annually)(i.e. Perimeter Trap Cropping)
- Judge All-America Selection Trials for new vegetable varieties (maintain AAS garden)
- Advise environmental & government groups (i.e. Nature Conservancy, Natural Resource Defense Council, New England AG Statistics, CT AG Pest Survey, USDA NRCS)
- Publications (book, chapters, referred & peer reviewed, manuals, proceedings, fact sheets, etc.)



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