



# Fact Sheet on the Pesticide Risk Reduction Program



September 2005

## What is the Pesticide Risk Reduction Program?

The Pesticide Risk Reduction Program is a joint initiative of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) designed to support the development, availability and adoption of sustainable pest management tools and practices in agriculture. More specifically, this program will:

- help address growers' needs in achieving effective and sustainable pest management;
- develop and implement strategies to reduce environmental and health risks from pesticide use;
- support research to develop and improve pest management tools;
- facilitate the registration of reduced-risk pesticides and adoption of their use by growers; and
- support the development of and provide comprehensive information on best IPM practices to growers.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) can be defined as a process that combines biological, cultural, physical and chemical methods to manage pests so that the benefits of pest control are maximized while the risk to human health and the environment are minimized. IPM ensures that pesticides are only used when needed and that they are used responsibly as part of an overall pest management strategy.



## Who is involved?

The program focuses on individual agricultural commodities. Growers and growers' associations of a particular commodity are key to the success of the Pesticide Risk Reduction Program. Other groups that influence pest management activities on the farm may also be considered as stakeholders. Stakeholders typically include growers and growers' associations, the crop protection industry, extension specialists, research scientists, packers and distributors, federal government departments as well as other non-governmental organizations. Participation of stakeholders in the program is voluntary, but essential.

## How does the program work?

The program focuses on the priority pest management needs chosen by growers. First, a crop profile, which identifies the pest management practices, issues and needs for the crop, is produced in consultation with growers. An issue document is developed to summarize issues and needs. Stakeholders are then consulted to gain consensus on which needs should be addressed and to select solutions for action. Solutions may include applied research, registration of reduced-risk products as well as promotion of IPM tools and practices. A stakeholder steering committee is charged with setting action plans to implement the solutions. These action plans are the risk-reduction strategy.

Active involvement of growers and other stakeholders is essential throughout the entire process to ensure the success of the risk-reduction strategy. This is intended as a grower-led program in which PMRA and AAFC collaborate and consult with stakeholders. These agencies will also provide coordination and secretariat functions. The program can be flexible and the individual steps of the program may vary depending on the commodity.

## What are the benefits?

- Prioritization by growers of pest management needs to ensure best allocation of resources
- Increased collaboration on a national level throughout the process among growers, researchers and other stakeholders
- Research support to address grower-specific needs
- New or improved IPM tools and practices (e.g., development of treatment thresholds)
- Development, registration and promotion of reduced-risk pesticides
- Facilitated transition from pesticides under re-evaluation
- Better use of existing pesticides
- Reduced risks from pesticide use to health and environment

## Examples of improved IPM tools and practices

Canola: Canol@Grow—An agronomic tool designed to help growers and extension workers quickly find canola production information

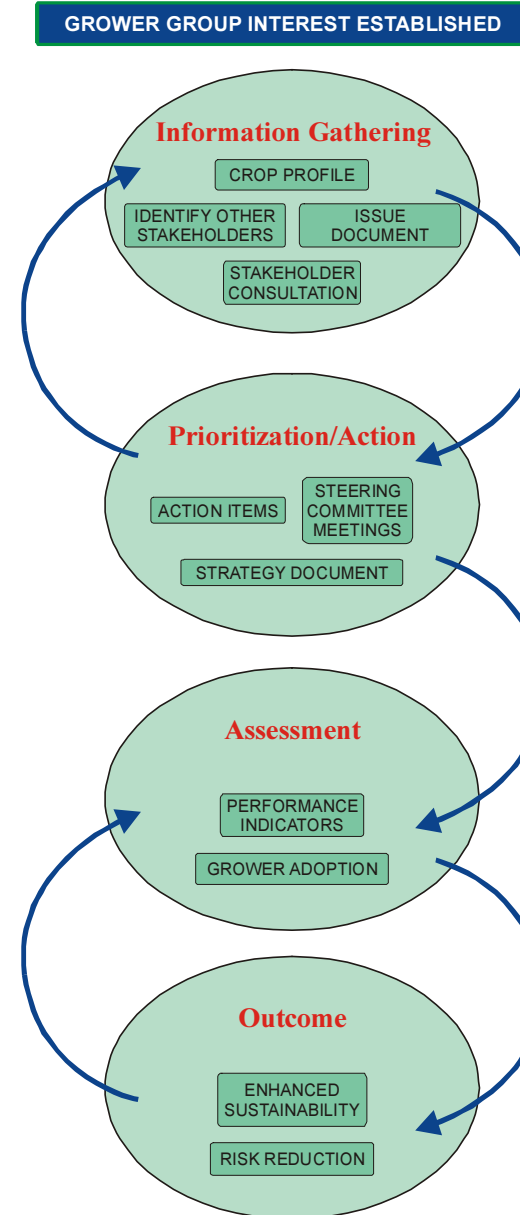
Eastern Canada Cranberry IPM Manual—An IPM manual to help growers monitor pest occurrence and use economic thresholds in making treatment decisions

Pulse: Bacterial bean blight—The development of a long-term management plan for bacterial bean blight in dry beans

Integrated Management of Late Blight on Potatoes—An IPM partnership project to promote the understanding of the issues and identify concrete actions to manage the incidence of late blight in potatoes

## Development of a Risk-Reduction Strategy

### Risk-Reduction Process



For more information on the Pesticide Risk Reduction Program

Visit the AAFC ([www.agr.gc.ca/prmup](http://www.agr.gc.ca/prmup)) and/or PMRA websites ([www.pmra-arla.gc.ca](http://www.pmra-arla.gc.ca)), call AAFC (1 800 622-6232) and/or the PMRA (1 800 267 6315), or write to:

Manager  
Risk Reduction Program  
Pest Management Centre  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
960 Carling Avenue, Building 57  
Ottawa ON K1A 0G6

Section Head  
Sustainable Pest Management Section  
Efficacy and Sustainability Assessment Division  
Pest Management Regulatory Agency  
Sir Charles Tupper Building  
2720 Riverside Drive  
Ottawa ON K1A 0K9

