

# Fact Sheet on Integrated Pest Management Partnership Program

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## What is Integrated Pest Management?

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a process for planning and managing sites to prevent pest problems and for making decisions about when and how to intervene when pest problems occur. It is a sustainable approach, combining biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools to manage pests so that the benefits of pest control are maximized and the health and environmental risks are minimized.

IPM is an important contributor to sustainable pest management. The goals of sustainable pest management are:

- to meet society's needs for human health protection, food and fibre production and resource utilization;
- to conserve or enhance natural resources and the quality of the environment for future generations; and
- to be economically viable.

## How does IPM work?

IPM programs:

- manage crops to prevent pests from becoming a threat, e.g., by crop rotation;
- identify potential pests (weeds, diseases, insects, etc.);
- monitor environmental conditions, pest and beneficial organism populations and pest damage;
- decide whether treatment is needed on the basis of population and damage thresholds;
- use biological, mechanical, and behavioural control methods (such as resistant crop varieties, physical barriers and traps) to reduce pest populations to acceptable levels;
- when necessary, use targeted applications of pesticides; and
- have an evaluation process built-in.

By ensuring that pesticide applications are warranted, well-timed and performed in concert with other management practices, IPM can reduce possible adverse health or environmental impacts of pesticide use. It can also extend the useful life span of a pesticide by delaying the development of resistance.

## What is PMRA's involvement in IPM?

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) coordinates and facilitates the development of voluntary, national IPM strategies in cooperation with a range of partners including grower organizations, manufacturers, other federal government departments, provinces, research establishments and other non-government organizations. IPM projects can only be successful if they have the active involvement of growers/users and their advisors.

For example, late blight has been a problem for potato growers in North America since the 1840s. The recent arrival of a new form of the late blight fungus, the A2 mating type, is resulting in many new strains of the fungus. A completed IPM partnership project on late blight on potatoes recommended that for effective control of late blight, integrated management **must** be adopted by all producers, large and small, including organic farmers, home gardeners and other specialized growers, by pesticide and equipment manufacturers and suppliers, and by government agencies, extension specialists and crop consultants. Over 7000 copies of the fact sheet describing the IPM approach have been distributed to potato growers, manufacturers, governments and various associations and elements of the strategy have become key parts of control efforts against late blight.

IPM partnership projects are now under way in a variety of commodities and sectors, working towards finding practical IPM solutions for specific crops and pests. They include:

- *Colorado Potato Beetle* - This is the most destructive insect pest of potatoes in Canada. It is very adaptable and readily develops resistance to many chemical pesticides leading to control failures and crop losses. A working group is exploring an easily-implementable IPM strategy that will protect the crop and create the least possible environmental impact.
- *Canola* - Growers from both sides of the border, provincial extension experts, provincial

regulatory agencies, researchers, crop input manufacturers and non-governmental organizations are represented on a working group to develop an IPM strategy to combat a range of weed, insect and disease pests that attack canola crops. This partnership is a risk reduction initiative under the North American Free Trade Agreement Technical Working Group on Pesticides.

Other IPM Partnership Projects include Sea Lice in Salmon Aquaculture, Urban Landscapes, Spruce Budworm in Forestry, Apple Orchards, Alternatives to Methyl Bromide in the Food Processing Sector, and Cranberries.

## What are the criteria for IPM Partnership Projects?

Before the PMRA begins working in partnership with provinces/stakeholders on an IPM project, the following questions are addressed:

- What is the level of support from user groups, growers and their associations?
- What are the opportunities for risk reduction to humans, animals, plants and the environment?
- Is there a clear definition and delineation of the pest problem? (The problem can range from a specific pest to an entire commodity.)
- Is there an urgency to address an immediate pest problem?
- Are long-term solutions feasible?

## What are the advantages offered by IPM Partnership Projects?

IPM Partnership Projects provide:

- a grower/user-driven approach to sustainable pest management that brings together all interested parties voluntarily;
- a focus on resistance management;
- opportunities for technology transfer;
- potential access to new products and strategies; and
- a pest management context for registration decisions.

For more information about IPM and the Partnership Projects, visit our Website at <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pmra-arla/adhome2.html>.

Information is also available from the Pest Management Information Service at 1-800-267-6315 (inside Canada) or (613) 736-3799 (outside Canada), or by writing to:

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