



Dedicated to the Delivery of IPM Information and Technology

NURSERY AND LANDSCAPE RESEARCH MEETING - MAY 23, 2003

IFAS Statewide IPM Program

Issue: Current methods of pest management are becoming obsolete and IPM replacements must be developed and adopted by developing partnerships among extension specialists, cooperative extension faculty, and receptive clientele. Implementation of IPM technologies will maximize agricultural productivity in an increasingly competitive global market while protecting Florida's citizens and conserving its natural resources.

Objectives: The immediate objectives of *IPM Florida* are to establish a responsive IPM office, build and maintain a comprehensive IPM website, increase the visibility and delivery of IPM concepts and practices in cooperative extension programs, teach IPM principles, and facilitate IPM projects.

Status: IPM Florida accomplishments in 2001-2003.

- ✓ Establish a responsive IPM office- Norm Leppla appointed IPM Coordinator April 2001, IPM coordination and consultation in IFAS, FAS report, CSREES Florida IPM plan of work and annual reports (<http://ipm.ifas.ufl.edu>), list of IFAS IPM faculty members.
- ✓ Build and maintain a comprehensive IPM Website- Extension resources, success stories, EDIS list of IPM publications, sources of grants, biological control risk assessments, new information, reports, employment, photo galleries, presentations, tutorials, links, list of IFAS IPM faculty, and more.
- ✓ Increasing the visibility and delivery of IPM concepts and practices in extension programs- Master gardener "IPM Toolbox," talks and service, SMP participation, green team talks, American Farm Bureau, ESA, FES, ANBP, IOBC, FNGA, regional and national IPM conferences, eco-labeling conference, IPM survey of extension needs, IPM display, statewide videoconference, IPM education and training module for ornamental plant production (Mannion, Schall, Garofalo), and Jr. Master Gardener and 4H training.
- ✓ Teaching IPM principles- ENY 5241, 6934- Biocontrol, DPM seminar, ENY 6905- IPM, Insect rearing course, graduate student consultation in IPM, 15 graduate student committees, DPM internships, IPM lectures, extension in-service training.
- ✓ Facilitating IPM demonstration projects- Grape root borer (Liburd, Weihman, Leppla, FAMU), pests of red pepper (Cuda, Legaspi, FAMU), IPM for woody ornamentals (Leppla, Sonke, DPM students), mites in strawberry (Liburd, DPM Students), mole cricket IPM (Frank, Buss, Adjei, Brown, Sprenkel, Blount), Florida/offshore biological control initiative (FAMU, USDA, DACS), IPM of invasive species in the Caribbean (Brown, Klassen, & Leppla), biorational pesticide testing on mites (Hoy, Allen, DPM student), IPM decision sourcebook (Larson, Leppla, Glades Crop Care).



Woody Ornamentals IPM Project

Issue: IPM practices can significantly reduce pest management costs, increase marketability of woody ornamentals, reduce the potential for claims of environmental damage, and label Florida products as premium (<http://eco-labels.org>).

Objectives: Increase the number of woody ornamental producers voluntarily using reduced risk practices and products by creating a credible IPM certification program that gives recognition in the marketplace for woody ornamentals produced using IPM practices.

Status: Chronology of a 2-year project funded by EPA on November 25, 2002 and ending on July 31, 2004 (\$33,225.00, ca \$7,000 remains).

- ✓ January 15, 2002- Timothee Sallin, Cherry Lake Tree Farm, contacted Norm Leppla about IPM certification that might apply to woody ornamentals. Norm Leppla prepared options paper (see report at <http://ipm.ifas.ufl.edu>) and discussions held at Cherry Lake Tree Farm.
- ✓ March 25, 2002- Norm Leppla met with Tom Green, President, IPM Institute of North America (www.ipminstitute.org).
- ✓ April 30, 2002- Conference call to determine direction for an EPA grant proposal, Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program.
- ✓ July 23, 2002- Grant proposal submitted to EPA, "Increasing Adoption of Reduced Risk Practices in the Production of Woody Ornamentals."
- ✓ August 14, 2002- Prepared Briefing Book for Woody Ornamentals Workgroup.
- ✓ August 29, 2002- 1st meeting at Cherry Lake Tree Farm for orientation and WG composition.
- ✓ November 6, 2002- Attended international "Conference on Eco-labels and the Greening of the Food Market" at Tufts University (<http://nutrition.tufts.edu/conferences/ecolabels/order.html>).
- ✓ November 12, 2002- Updated project documents and posted on IPM Institute of NA website.
- ✓ November 21, 2002- 2nd meeting at Cherry Lake Tree Farm for determining a course of action.
- ✓ March 25, 2003- Third meeting held at FNGA Headquarters for guidance, inventorying IPM practices, and evaluating markets.
- ✓ May 1, 2003- Eco-labeling committee was suggested for the task of defining the BMPs Trend at the FNATS trade show this September, as part of FNGA and Ornamental Outlook teaming together to present four "New Trends" to the industry (Timothee Sallin).
- ✓ May 14, 2003- 4th meeting of workgroup cancelled on advice from FNGA to conduct scoping sessions with woody ornamental plant producers throughout Florida (Ben Bolusky).
- ✓ October 1, 2003- Ornamental outlook will publish a special issue on "New Trends" and we will write an article on the potential for eco-labeling woody ornamentals.

Landscape IPM Maintenance Training

Issue: IPM concepts, including BMPs, are becoming more marketable but PCOs are advertising that they offer landscape IPM services without having a good training base. An organized statewide training program and associated certification is needed for landscape IPM.

Objectives: Develop a multi-day training program, including a comprehensive workbook and hands-on field exercises. Administer a thorough test, award a suitable certificate, and provide a "tool kit" that graduates could use in their fieldwork. Limit class size to accommodate field exercises. Standardized evaluations would be part of each program to measure impact and success.

Status: IPM Florida is investigating the need and options for providing training in landscape IPM.

- ✓ December 26, 2002- The Tampa Bay Horticulture Agents Green Team met to discuss possible topics for instruction: introduction to landscape IPM in Florida, key plants, key pests, beneficial insects, mistaken identities, IPM for turf weed management using IPM procedures, IPM for fire ant control, scouting and least toxic pest management methods and products, and writing environmental landscape pest management contracts.
- ✓ January 9, 2003- Dr. Lora Schroeder (EPA, Atlanta) provided the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection documents that serve as guidelines for a commercial pesticide applicator to be considered an IPM practitioner (<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/enforcement/pcp/>).
- ✓ March 21, 2003- Drs. Eileen Buss and Barbra Larson (*IPM Florida*) met with the Tampa Bay Green Team to solicit guidance and direction on the potential for a landscape industry IPM training program. They asked for details about what kind of a program is needed and how it would be orchestrated through county extension. The following are examples of pertinent questions:
 1. What would be the purpose of a landscape industry IPM training program?
 2. Would certification be included and, if so, who would certify?
 3. Who would develop the curriculum and provide the training?
 4. What would be included in the curriculum?
 5. Who would receive the training and benefit by having a program?
 6. How would an IPM training program differ from existing training, e.g., FNGA certification?
 7. Would a weeklong short course be appropriate or distance education or?
 8. Where would the training be conducted and how often?
 9. How would the training system be developed and tested?
 10. Are there IPM training programs or other models available?
 11. How would an IPM training program be financed?
- ✓ March 27, 2003- Drs. Buss, Larson and Leppla attended the IFAS School IPM Advisory Committee meeting in Gainesville to determine if landscape IPM training is available in Florida school districts. As with other sectors of the landscape industry, considerable expertise exists but there is no formal training in IPM. Schools increasingly require IPM plans and a school IPM bill was introduced in the US Congress this year. School IPM certification is available from the IPM Institute of North America.
- ✓ April 7, 2003- Dr. Leppla and Dan Sonke (IPM Florida) attended the 4th National IPM Symposium in Indianapolis and participated in School IPM meetings to determine the extent of landscape IPM training. The New England Pest Control Association provides IPM certification in school IPM that includes landscape IPM training.