

state major program: ipm/bc

Survey of Florida County Extension IPM/BC Needs



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

March 2002: Summary Document



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Introduction

In February 2002, the state major program in IPM and biological control distributed a survey to all county extension faculty. The purpose of the survey was two-fold:

- 1) to query county faculty on their IPM and biological control related felt needs and prioritize the activities of the SMP accordingly
- 2) to establish and encourage relationships between the SMP extension specialists and county extension.

The survey was distributed via e-mail listserv [EXT-DISTRICTS-ALL-L] to 346 county extension faculty members. Thirty (30) surveys were returned, but only 29 in time to be included in this document. Following are the questions taken from the survey along with selected responses and a simple analysis of the trends in the answers. A complete compilation of all responses is also available.

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Questions and Trends/Samples from Answers

1. Do you need educational materials for talks to clientele groups, i.e., flip charts, slide sets, videos, and evaluation instruments? (Please give specific examples in answering every question.)

PowerPoint presentations – 14 (48%)

Video – 7 (24%)

Slide sets – 6 (21%)

Selected comments:

- “Instruction materials in powerpoint or slide sets that illustrate IPM would be helpful. Materials should be appropriate for homeowners, master gardeners and for landscape professionals. I teach a class for county parks maintenance and personnel, their needs are very different from homeowners.”
- “Power points for PCO’s and other license holders in the lawn and ornamental category; landscape maintenance companies; county govt departments. Brochure that landscape business can use to sell IPM (like a ‘check off’ list of what IPM business do.”
- “Yes, I feel this is important info for homeowners – they need also to know how to choose a lawn care co. that utilizes IPM.”

2. Can we provide support in establishing or improving an IPM/BC program for your clientele, i.e., collaborators, evaluation instruments, consultation?

Evaluation instruments – 12 (41%)

Selected comments:

- “A network approach could be used to provide support where needed, i.e.: evaluations.”
- “Wish we could set up some kind of reporting system statewide that would alert pest control companies and homeowners as to the seasonal occurrences of pests.”
- “Yes, I think that perhaps a student scout/intern program would be well received. The primary reason for lack of adoption is the difficulty of training and dedicating personnel to scouting.”
- “Yes – easy to use evaluation instruments are critical in helping to convince clientele of the benefits of IPM/BC.”
- “Possibly. I am trying to get the county interested in using more biological controls, to include nematodes for mole crickets. If the interest is there, I will need help.”
- “Product testing program urgently needed.”



3. Can we support you in designing a pest and natural enemy scouting system for specific clientele, i.e., collaborators, monitoring techniques, consultation?

No – 5 (17%)

Yes - 22 (76%)

Selected comments:

- “Not at this time, unless you can develop something for homeowners. A commercial program would be a good idea. Perhaps it could be a powerpoint, slide show, or video that could be used to teach a class if needed.”
- “Yes – for landscape maintenance businesses as pilot project collaborators, monitoring techniques. On grounds of local hospital?”
- The system design in Commercial Ornamental Nursery Scouting Manual is just fine, thanks.”
- “Would love to have help training homeowners to scout.”

4. Would you like to have IPM/BC options added to Florida pest management guides, i.e., biorationals, microbials, natural enemies, selection criteria?

Yes – 27 (93%)

Selected comments:

- “Yes, this should have already been done.”
- “Absolutely. Also rank pesticides via IPM criteria!”
- “Yes, many clients, homeowners/nursery growers want alternatives.”
- “Yes – there is a great deal of hype and misinformation – we need to be able to evaluate efficacy, etc.”
- “Absolutely (for homeowner publications, these strategies should be emphasized prominently!).”
- “Yes, but only if it is readily available on the market; and if efficacy information is available.”

5. Do you need current information on pesticide availability and use for your clientele, i.e., chemicals registered for use on specific crops or urban sites?

No – 3 (10%)

Yes – 25 (86%)

Unsure – 1 (3%)

Selected comments:

- “Yes, it would be very helpful if Pest Management Guides were updated at least on a yearly basis.”
- “Yes, the consumer knows more about what is on the shelves at home depot, than our own pest management guides.”
- “We need an on-line, accurate, up-dated as needed site for this.”
- “Yes – although the IFAS pest control manuals are useful in this regard rapid changes cause them to be outdated quickly – possibly an on-line resource updated frequently.”
- “The information for my primary clientele, commercial vegetable growers, is finally pretty good – as long as the Vegetable Production Guide is updated on a yearly basis or every 18-months basis.”
- “Neishrim already helps with this.”

6. Do you want support for IPM/BC in-service training, i.e., scouting and identification of natural enemies, principles of IPM/BC, current IPM/BC projects in Florida?

Not sure – 2 (7%)

Yes - 22 (76%)

Selected comments:

- “Yes, all those would be great plus, ways to rear beneficials like ladybugs, green lacewings & the predatory mite for homeowners...”
- “Yes, for urban settings.”
- “If there is anything new in the lawn and landscape area.”
- “Yes, scouting & identification – available to agents, clients.”
- “Current project information.”
- “Yes – would like to be able to offer hand-on classes to veg producers and scouts.”
- “Yes – an in-service covering these tactics would be great.”
- “It has been done to some degree in Master Gardener Training, but a good program for homeowners would be useful.”
- “Yes & training for industry and MG’s.”



7. What kinds of IPM/BC information do you need, i.e., Web based materials, publications, photographs, displays?

Photos – 14 (48%)
Web-based materials – 11 (38%)
Publications - 9 (31%)
Displays – 5 (17%)

Selected comments:

- “Displays, posters or individual laminated pictures that could be attached to a display board would be helpful. Also a Power Point presentation would be useful for training for Master Gardeners, homeowners, growers, etc.”
- “General pub for homeowners w/ photos and companies to purchase beneficials.”
- “All of the above and others we probably haven’t thought of yet. We need to be moving forward in the area before someone else does.”
- “Information for homeowners (I have plenty of pictures on most natural enemies).”
- “All of the above – I am particularly interested in materials that can be incorporated into my newsletters.”

8. Would you be interested in collaborating on IPM/BC demonstration projects, i.e., natural enemy releases, IPM/BC study projects for Master Gardeners?

No – 2 (7%)
Maybe – 3 (10%)
Yes – 24 (83%)

Selected comments:

- “Not at this time – need to know more about it.”
- “Yes – rerelease Carol-Lee Boyles/Sprenkel IPM Primer.”
- “Yes, definitely. Out Master Gardeners have a vegetable garden at Sumter Youth Center.”
- “Yes. Several master gardeners would be interested in taking part in that sort of study.”
- “Yes. We are already on mole cricket nematodes & fire ant decapitivity fly.”

9. Do you need consultation on IPM/BC related questions, i.e., pesticide compatibility with natural enemies, companion plants, genetically modified crops, IPM certification, specific pest or disease problems?

No – 5 (17%)

Yes – 24 (83%)

Selected comments:

- “No, not how but would conclude it would be needed later as IPM is taught.”
- “It would be great to know which pest control companies offer an IPM option.”
- “Yes – ideally through rapid response e-mail.”
- “Pesticide compatibility with natural enemies, companion plants.”
- “At the moment, I could use information on IPM certifications.”
- “Yes, rerelease Carol-Lee Boyles/Sprenkel IPM Primer.”
- “The more info the better. I try to stay current in agronomic crop IPM.”

10. Would you be interested in collaborating on grants to implement IPM/BC, i.e., Southern Region IPM, SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education), T-STAR (Tropical/Subtropical Agriculture Research)?

No – 4 (14%)

Maybe – 8 (28%)

Yes – 17 (59%)

Selected comments:

- “Not at this time.”
- “Yes, but I don’t know how to apply or write a grant.”

11. Do you want increased IPM networking opportunities within Florida, the Southeast, and the U.S., i.e., contact with crop consultants, specific researchers and extension specialists, pesticide suppliers, natural enemy producers and suppliers?

No – 3 (10%)

Yes – 26 (90%)

Selected comments:

- “The Web site seems to provide this opportunity.”
- “Yes.” [circled] extension specialists, natural enemy producers and suppliers.
- “Yes – any BC suppliers for landscapes?”
- “Probably not necessary.”
- “Yes, without creating a cumbersome institutional environment. Not another committee that takes time but turns out little work.”
- “Yes, I have some contact with consultants and specialists for agronomic crops but could use more.”

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12. Do you need a structure for measuring the adoption and benefits of IPM, i.e., record keeping, economics, and environmental protection?

Yes – 23 (79%) [of these, 4 people specified assessment/measuring/survey instruments, and 4 specified record keeping]

Not sure – 3 (10%)

Selected comments:

- “Yes, we need economic data in the lawn and landscape to support out argument.”
- “Record keeping, data collection, what to look for when.”
- “Yes, and I believe help in quantifying benefits will increase adoption.”
- “Have developed some of the years but always open for new ideas.”

13. Please visit the IPM/BC Web site, <http://biocontrol.ifas.ufl.edu/>, if you have not already done so, and comment on its ease of use and information content.

Not compiled for this summary report.

14. Please make additional comments or suggestions:

Selected comments:

- “Networking is the key to success in this area.”
- “I would like to see more examples of what has worked in the field.”
- “It is vital for UF/IFAS to become the leader in IPM in the South.”
- “One day inservice training for new agents.”
- “Entomology publications need to emphasize Biocontrol & IPM instead of just dealing with pesticide recommendations. You’ll get more adoption if other control strategies are emphasized!”
- More information on degree of infestation that should prompt action – How to get homeowners to buy into small infestations being okay. This would help with homeowner buy-in, I think.”

Priorities

Priorities [positive responses by 76% or more respondents]:

- Pest management guides
- Networking/consultation
- Current pesticide information
- Current IPM information
- Measure adoption of IPM
- Collaboration on projects
- IPM scouting thresholds
- In-service training

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