The Ornamental Horticulture Program

To learn more about IR-4 visit ir4.rutgers.edu.

Major funding provided by Special Research Grants and Hatch Act Funds from USDA-NIFA (formerly USDA-CSREES), in cooperation with the State Agricultural Experiment Stations, and USDA-ARS.
Who benefits from IR-4 activities?
Sustainable pest management tools enable specialty crop growers to produce high quality food and ornamental horticulture crops. This in turn benefits the general public with ample food and ornamental horticulture crops available at reasonable prices. Speciality food crops provide essential nutrition for a balanced diet, while ornamental horticulture crops enrich the environment and improve the quality of life.

Working in Cooperation
IR-4 is a highly effective collaborative effort among the state agricultural experiment stations, land grant institutions, USDA-NIFA (formerly USDA-CSREES), USDA-ARS, USDA-FAS, EPA, commodity growers, trade associations and the crop protection industry.

IR-4 Contributions
About 80% of IR-4 research projects are conducted on reduced-risk chemistries and biologically based products that fit well into Integrated Pest Management (IPM) systems.

How IR-4 Helps Ornamental Horticulture Growers
To ensure pest management tools are there when growers need them, IR-4 has established the following process to identify, prioritize and research grower needs.

The process starts with growers and landscape care professionals identifying a need such as a new pest or new chemical use. Research priorities are established at the biennial Ornamental Horticulture workshop based on the type of issues growers face. IR-4 then annually sponsors experiments with university and USDA-ARS researchers and private contractors. Products tested can be biologically or chemically based. IR-4 communicates research results through report summaries, which manufacturers review and incorporate into technical literature and product labels.

The IR-4 Ornamental Horticulture Program focuses on generating efficacy data for disease and pest problems, including plant pathogens, insects and weeds, as well as crop safety data for herbicides on high priority projects. IR-4 also works to develop plant impact information for plant growth regulators.

The IR-4 ornamental horticulture program website (www.ir4.rutgers.edu/ornamentals.html) is one source of comparative efficacy and crop safety information for extension personnel, growers and landscape care professionals to make effective decisions about which registered products to use.

IR-4 Ornamental Horticulture Program Facts & Figures
32 Years
569 Products
812 Crops
12,480 Studies
27,210 Trials

For more information, contact program manager, Cristi Palmer, at palmer@aesop.rutgers.edu.