

## With Crop Grouping

Tolerances for many crops can be established with fewer residue studies, resulting in a more efficient registration process.



## International Crop Grouping Consulting Committee

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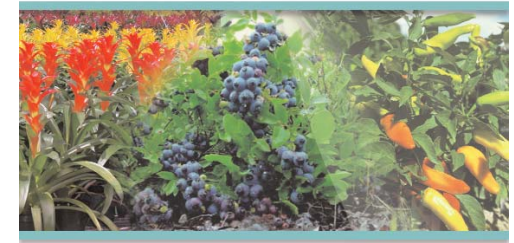
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For more information on the Crop Grouping Project  
and its participants visit the IR-4 website at:

[www.ir4.rutgers.edu](http://www.ir4.rutgers.edu)

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# The IR-4/EPA Crop Grouping Project

*An International Effort*

## Crop Grouping Project

Crop grouping/ Classification places crops into appropriate groups or subgroups based on botanical, taxonomical, or cultural characteristics. Representative crops from each group are selected for residue research purposes. The purpose of Crop Grouping/Classification is to facilitate the establishment of Maximum Residue Limits (MRL) on crop groups and to provide maximum crop protection with minimum effort. The US crop grouping regulation has brought great benefit to growers, researchers, agri-chemical companies as well as regulatory agencies since 1983.

IR-4 has been a major resource for crop grouping since the concept began in 1971. The current crop grouping scheme includes about 500 crops and was published in the Federal Register in 1995. In 1998, IR-4's G.M. Markle and J.J. Baron, together with EPA's B.A. Schneider, published the second edition of *Food & Feed Crops of the United States* (MeisterPro Reference Guides, 1998), which provides crop monographs and instructions on the use of crop grouping for residue studies.

With the rapid development of global food crop markets and import/export activities, an expansion of the crop grouping scheme is warranted. In 2002, the USDA/IR-4 International Crop Grouping Symposium proposed to expand the current scheme through adding significant numbers of "new crops" and "crop groups". In 2003, the IR-4/EPA Crop Grouping Working Group was established to bring these proposals to federal regulation. To assist this effort, an International Crop Grouping Consulting Committee (ICGCC) was established in 2004, which included crop, regulatory and agrichemical experts representing about 40 countries.

This effort has significantly promoted the harmonization of US and Codex crop classification systems. Since 2005, the Chairperson of the ICGCC and a representative of the Codex crop classification revision have worked closely in creating a joint proposal for an extended

revision of the Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds. This proposal was presented by Delegations of the Netherlands and the U.S. with support from many other Delegations at the 38th Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues (CCPR) Meeting in April 2006. It was then approved by the 29th session of Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) in July 2006, and will become the cornerstone for the harmonization of an international crop classification system, combining the strength of the existing classification systems (Codex, US, EU, Japan, etc.) and ultimately facilitating the establishment of international MRLs and commodity trade among countries and regions.

### ICGCC Participants

#### Africa

South Africa  
Kenya

#### Australia

#### Asia

China  
India  
Japan  
Philippines  
South Korea

#### EU

all member countries represented

#### Latin America

Brazil  
Chile

#### Mid East

Israel  
Lebanon



#### NAFTA

Canada  
Mexico  
U.S.

#### New Zealand

South America  
Columbia

## Impact of Crop Grouping on Food Use Clearances

1 residue study = 1 new use

Without Crop Grouping Prior to 1983

1 residue study ≥ 5 new uses

With Current U.S. Crop Grouping Scheme

1 residue study ≥ 10 new uses

With Future Crop Grouping Scheme

## Benefits of a Harmonized Crop Classification System

- Joint FAO/WHO Meetings on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) and Countries - save time on data review and standardize MRL determination
- CCPR/CAC - facilitate commodity trade by setting MRLs on harmonized crop groups
- Growers - have more access to pest control products and increased capacity to export commodities
- Consumers - have better access to safer specialty crop produce
- Manufacturers - save time and cost on supervised trials based on crop groups & subgroups
- A harmonized effort today will prevent a duplication of efforts in the future

