

## 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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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)



# The IR-4/EPA Crop Grouping Project

*An International Effort*

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## Crop Grouping Project

Crop grouping in the U.S. is a well accepted and cost effective approach that facilitates the efficient establishment of pesticide tolerances for both major and minor crops. 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 contributor of data and research resources 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 agri-chemical 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. The acceptance and use of representative commodities by Codex is particularly important for growers of specialty crops because of the considerably more efficient use of scarce resources to develop regula-

tory data on these crops. After six years of effort a huge milestone was achieved this year. The CCPR agreed to forward the first set of completed commodities to the Codex Commission for implementation, which will revise the Classification of all fruit commodity groups. This group includes peaches, plums, cherries and other stone fruit, apples, pears and other pome fruit, blueberry, cranberry raspberry and other berries/small fruit, and assorted tropical and subtropical fruits. The CCPR also decided to fully implement the use of crop groups and representative commodities for all fruit commodity groups.

## ICGCC Participants

Argentina	Germany	New Zealand
Australia	Guatemala	Nicaragua
Bangladesh	Honduras	Nigeria
Belgium	Hungary	Republic of Korea
Brazil	India	Senegal
Burkina Faso	Israel	South Africa
Canada	Japan	St. Kitts
Chile	Kenya	Taiwan
China	Lebanon	Thailand
Columbia	Mali	Trinidad
El Salvador	Mexico	United Kingdom
France	Morocco	United States

## 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

