
Regional News

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Southern Region

Efficacy/Phytotoxicity Data and the Southern Region

For the past three years the IR-4 Southern Region has been encouraging the generation of efficacy and plant safety data. It was gratifying this year to have IR-4 Headquarters begin a national search for efficacy data as well as to provide support for a number of efficacy projects.

By combining IR-4 national support with regional and private support, the Southern Region has established a program to evaluate new technology products for the control of significant pests on minor crops in the South. A Southern Region call for proposals last year resulted in the funding of twenty-six research scientists from twelve southern states to generate efficacy and/or plant safety data. We are focusing our program on the high priority minor crops/pest problems listed below:

Carrots: powdery mildew, Cercospora and Alternaria leaf spots
Garden Beets: preemergent weed control, Alternaria and Cercospora leaf spots
Yam: root rot
Onion: Botrytis leaf blight, purple blotch, thrips
Celery: Cercospora and Septoria leaf spots
Lettuce: Botrytis gray mold, Sclerotinia drop
Parsley: Alternaria leaf spot
Spinach: preemergent weed control, white rust, Alternaria leaf spot, grasshoppers, soil borne insects
Broccoli: preemergent weed control, foliar leaf spots
Cabbage and Bok Choy: preemergent weed control, foliar leaf spots
Greens (collard, mustard & turnip): Alternaria and Cercospora leaf spots, powdery mildew, grasshoppers
Bean: preemergent weed control, Botrytis gray mold, Sclerotinia white mold, rust
Southern Pea: preemergent weed control
Pepper: Phytophthora blight, powdery mildew, soilborne insects
Tomato: Septoria leaf spot, black and gray mold
Caneberries: spider mites, stink bugs, borers, rosette, Botrytis gray mold
Strawberries: Botrytis gray mold, powdery mildew, bacterial leaf spot
Sweet Corn: preemergent weed control
Sweetpotato: soil borne insects
Herbs: foliar blights
Atemoya, Sugar Apple: Annona seed borer
Avocado/Guava/Lychee/Papaya: lepidoptera larvae
Lychee/Mango/Sugar Apple: anthracnose

Performance evaluations are being conducted with the following materials, many of them classified as new technology:
HERBICIDES: bromoxynil, carfentrazone, clopyralid, dimethenamid, glufosinate, mesotrione, metolachlor, pyridate.
INSECTICIDES: abamectin, imidacloprid, cyfluthrin+tebupirimphos, bifenthrin, cyfluthrin, diflubenzuron, emamectin benzoate, fipronil, methoxyfenozide, milbemectin, novaluron, pyridaben, spinosad, thiamethoxam, zeta-cypermethrin.
FUNGICIDES: azoxystrobin, BAS500/510/516, difenconazole, fenamidone, milsana, quinoxyfen, Bacillus subtilis QST 713 (Serenade), cyprodinil+fludioxonil (SWITCH).

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North Central Region

2001 Michigan IR-4 Conference

The fifth annual Michigan IR-4 Conference was held on March 21, 2001. Attendees represented research specialists, extension personnel, commodity representatives and others. The morning session featured a full slate of speakers. Dr. Wally Ewart of the Pacific Northwest Horticultural Council discussed "FQPA Now; The Evolving Climate for Pesticide Regulation." Also featured was J. Ray Frank, IR-4 Ornamentals Manager, who provided an IR-4 research update for floral, forestry, nursery and turf crops, and Dr. David Williams who discussed ornamentals research at the University of Illinois. The afternoon was a working session for those who wished to submit project clearance requests to IR-4 or learn more about the procedure.

NCR Designates New Field Research Center

Michigan State University's Trevor Nichols Research Farm, under the direction of Dr. John Wise, has earned the designation of IR-4 Field Research Center. Dr. Wise has been an active cooperator for several years and oversees many of the IR-4 fruit projects.

Northeastern Region

Changes in QA

Denise Snook, Northeastern Regional Quality Assurance Coordinator, has left her position because of illness. Denise began work as a chemist in the IR-4 analytical lab in Geneva and became QA Coordinator in 1994 after serving on the local QA committee for two years. Since 1994, she had been responsible for the coordination of QA for field research, field in-life visits, as well as the audit of all the Field Data Books and final reports assigned in the region. Her lively sense of humor as well as her advice, knowledge and encouraging manner were greatly respected in the Region. Denise also considered field in-life audits to be a training tool, generally talking with field researchers about their concerns and pointing out any potential problems. The field researchers appreciated this approach to QA. Dr. David Yarborough of the University of Maine writes, "I found Denise to conduct a very non-threatening QA. She carefully observed what we did, and then provided constructive advice on how we might improve our practices. This should be the model under which QA operates, and Denise exemplified it well." She will be missed. IR-4 wishes Denise a speedy recovery.

Western Region

Personnel Changes

The Western Region IR-4 Program is in full swing as we all work together on the 2001 research program. The year began with personnel changes in the field office. Dr. Ronald Hampton resigned, effective January 31, 2001. Margaret Reiff came on board as the Interim Regional Field Coordinator until the permanent position can be filled. Recruitment is underway. Martin Beran's position has been upgraded to a career staff position which will allow us to keep him employed with the IR-4 Quality Assurance Unit.

Research

In the 2001 field program approximately 185 residue trials will be conducted, and currently efficacy (food use) and ornamental trials are being placed. The Leader Laboratory is in full swing analyzing field samples for Methoxyfenozide/Radish, Fenhexamid/Caneberry, and Fenhexamid/Blueberry utilizing both LC/MS/MS systems. In addition to analyses, ASR writing on Imidacloprid, Pronamide and Methoxyfenozide projects continues, as well as SOP review and revision. The Quality Assurance Unit is planning for "mucho" travel to the various field sites.