
IR-4 ORNAMENTALS PROGRAM

IR-4/USDA Ornamentals Workshop Sets Research Priorities for 2003

Research sponsored by the IR-4 Project's Ornamentals Program has been responsible for adding over 9000 ornamentals pest control registrations since 1977. Field and container grown woody ornamentals, greenhouse and field grown floral crops, perennials, Christmas trees, sod production, interior landscapes and forest uses are major areas addressed by the Ornamentals Program. Needs are evaluated annually, most recently at a Workshop in Houston, Texas, April 15-18, 2002. The Workshop, moderated by J. Ray Frank, IR-4 Ornamentals Program Manager, covered weed, insect and disease control as well as plant growth regulator (PGR) needs for ornamentals.

The IR-4/USDA Ornamentals Workshop drew a national cross section of growers, researchers, extension personnel, commodity organizations, and agrichemical and biopesticide industry representatives. More than 60 individuals were present each day. Discussions centered on pest problems, status of current crop protection products and future needs for chemical and biological pest control tools. A full day was dedicated to each discipline with PGRs included in the weed control discussion.

The information exchange at an IR-4 Workshop is unique in that it is one of few places where a broad representation of the ornamentals industry meet, and discussion flows freely until the needs for new or expanded registrations have been identified. Each day is organized by discipline (entomology, plant pathology, weed science), by pest control product and by needs. One important aspect of the workshop is the

ability to query the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on the status of current, pending and proposed registrations. The workshop is an excellent place to sort out how currently registered pest control products have fared in the ongoing merger and acquisition process that is realigning the agrichemical industry. IR-4 is investigating how new reduced risk chemistries favored by EPA can fit with the ornamentals industry. Read more about reduced risk products on the IR-4 web site under New Technology and refer to the latest "IR-4 New Products/Transitional Solutions List" included with this Newsletter.

The products/needs list that forms the basis for the workshop is compiled throughout the year from written requests submitted to IR-4. Requests are encouraged from anyone in the industry. The Project Clearance Request (PCR) form is available on the IR-4 web site (<http://www.cook.rutgers.edu/~ir4>) and may be submitted electronically. Paper forms are available from each state's IR-4 Liaison, in the "IR-4 New Products/Transitional Solutions List" included with this Newsletter, or from J. Ray Frank (301-898-5332). Anyone interested is encouraged to attend the annual workshop and/or participate in the IR-4 process by submitting PCRs.

The Workshop also included a daylong field trip to visit a selection of Houston area greenhouses and nurseries. Production practices unique to Texas were highlighted, and pests and pest control problems were discussed on site.

Article by Sandy Perry and
J. Ray Frank

Travel This Quarter by the Ornamentals Manager

- June 6, 2002, I met at the American Nursery and Landscape Assoc. (ANLA) Headquarters with Geoff Galster before going to US EPA at Crystal City (Arlington, Virginia) to discuss the registration of important ornamental pesticides and biopesticides. We met with Debra Edwards, acting Director for Registration Division (US EPA), Hoyt Jamerson, Pat Cimino (who coordinated our meeting), Steve Schaible, Marion Johnson, Jr., Meridith Laws, Rick Keigwin, Joanne Miller, Steve Robbins and Linda Murray. Discussions and progress reports were very helpful.

Following the meeting, Pat Cimino, Geoff Galster, Michael Braverman and I met with Susanne Cerelli (US EPA) to discuss the biofungicide *Gliocladium catenulatum* (PRIMASTOP). EPA informed us that the registration has been approved.

Article by J. Ray Frank

***Next Issue: New Ornamentals Registrations and
European Research Travel Update***