How IR-4 Helps U.S. Ornamental Horticulture Growers

IR-4 researchers work on roses, poinsettias, cut flowers, maples and more than 1,000 other crops, which helps U.S. Ornamental Horticulture growers, who produce $16.6 billion farm gate value (USDA-NASS, 2007 Census of Agriculture).

Please Help IR-4 Continue to Assist U.S. Growers by:
- letting IR-4 know your pest management needs
- participating in IR-4 sponsored research
- supporting adequate funding at all levels (industry, university, and government)

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To learn more about IR-4 visit ir4.rutgers.edu.
Since 1963, the IR-4 Project has been the primary resource in the United States for facilitating registration of conventional pesticides and biopesticides on specialty food crops (fruits, vegetables, nuts, herbs, spices) and non-food ornamental horticulture crops (greenhouse, nursery, landscape plants, and Christmas trees). IR-4 serves as an intermediary between the agri-chemical industry and specialty crop growers. Due to the inherently small specialty crop market and cost prohibitive regulatory requirements, companies shy away from investing in the development of products for low acreage specialty crops.

The IR-4 Project is a cooperative effort charged with assisting specialty crop growers in solving pest management problems. The ornamental horticulture growers in the U.S. face multiple pest management challenges to produce high quality crops, which pleases the American palate for volume and diversity but face multiple pest management challenges in doing so.

U.S. Growers produce everything from African violets to Zebra plants and other crops including oaks, flowering cherries, forsythia, tulips, and impatiens.

IR-4’s mission is to address the needs of these high value low acreage crop growers by facilitating the registration of new pest management products. The IR-4 Ornamental Horticulture Program focuses efforts on reduced-risk chemistries and biopesticides that fit well into Integrated Pest Management (IPM) systems.

How IR-4 Helps

- Identify Needs
  Through grower and extension surveys
- Prioritize Projects
  By holding biennial workshops
- Conduct Research
  With cooperators throughout the U.S.
- Communicate Results
  To growers, researchers, and manufacturers.

Helping U.S. Ornamental Horticulture Growers

Grower productivity is enhanced with the registration of 61 products with EPA since 2003.

Crop loss avoidance is improved with the crop safety data generated to know which products might cause injury on certain crops.

A balanced approach to disease, insect and weed management is researched to integrate biological and chemical products into growing practices.

Understand product usage to help reduce resistance for diseases, insects and weeds.

Non-native invasive species prevention such as Phytophthora ramorum Blight and Q Biotype Whitefly are studied to register products that will ameliorate or eradicate newly present exotic diseases and pests.

Helping the General Public

According to Michigan State University's Center for Economic Analysis, research funding through the IR-4 Ornamental Horticulture Program creates a ripple effect through the economy that helps to maintain more than 16,000 jobs (U.S. full and part-time) with annual salaries and wages of $719 million.

IR-4 helps to ensure a healthy selection of healthy plants for bouquets, houseplants, landscapes, and urban forests.

The benefits of healthy plants in our landscapes and urban forests include sequestering carbon, reducing air pollution, improving energy conservation, and increasing biodiversity by providing harborage for birds, small mammals and beneficial insects.

“The IR-4 program it is one of the best programs that directly help us, the specialty growers, to manage our pest problems and keep our plants and places clean from weeds. We support the program and greatly need your work.”
— Sali Barolli of Imperial Nurseries, Inc., Granby, CT