

Invasive Pests are a \$120 Billion-a-Year Threat to America's Farms and Lands

Ongoing Investment in Integrated Pest Management Safeguards America's Agricultural Industry and Food Supply

Invasive pests can and do routinely slip past federal and state regulators and inspectors despite their best efforts. These non-native insects, weeds and diseases rarely have natural predators, and can wreak havoc on America's farms, natural areas, communities, homes and human health. Invasive pests cost the U.S. economy an estimated \$120 billion each year and American farmers, ranchers and taxpayers are paying for it.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a science-based approach to manage invasive pests and prevent the spread of these organisms. IPM allows pest managers to make informed decisions, taking into account all available technology and tools to control pests in an environmentally safe way. It is critical to controlling invasive pests that threaten agricultural productivity and human endeavors.

IPM consistently evolves to meet new challenges

When an invasive pest arrives, land-grant university researchers must develop new IPM programs to counter the new threats. It takes constant research and ongoing funding to develop methods to combat invasive species in ways both safe for the environment and economical for farmers to implement. In 2008, for example, the invasive spotted wing drosophila, a type of fruit fly, was detected on the West Coast. Its arrival forced many fruit growers to abandon their successful but selective IPM tactics and revert to repeated broad-spectrum insecticide sprays. It took dedicated research for a few years for IPM scientists to develop techniques to combat this pest safely and restore ecological balance to orchards. This is just one example of how IPM programs create real solutions for American citizens.

Invasive threats will not be going away — IPM programs need support

In our era of global trade and unparalleled connectedness, invasive pests are inevitable and will continue to plague our environment, food supply and natural areas. Investment and funding in IPM programs and the Cooperative Extension system are critical for early detection and timely development of new and innovative ways to combat these emerging pest threats to limit their impact on our economy and environment. This will not only benefit the agriculture industry, but also urban and rural communities, businesses and others, protecting the health and well-being of all U.S. citizens.

Examples of recent invasive pests found in the U.S.

Diseases: Citrus greening, sudden oak death, tar spot of corn, chestnut blight

Weeds: Tropical soda apple, cheatgrass, mile-a-minute weed, yellow starthistle

Insects: Asian citrus psyllid, emerald ash borer, brown marmorated stink bug, spotted wing drosophila

Vertebrates: Feral hogs, nutria, European starling, coqui frog

And many, many more...



The National Integrated Pest Management Coordinating Committee is a committee of the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy and the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy within the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities governing structure. It assists in development of reports and strategic plans on pest management issues and pursues activities that facilitate coordination and collaboration nationally among and between IPM research and extension at the land-grant universities, and between the land-grants and federal agencies involved in IPM. Learn more at:

<https://tinyurl.com/d7yx9ny6>