

FACT SHEET

IPM is the sustainable management of pests



Predatory thrips on a strawberry flower.

Features of IPM programmes

- An ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties
- Use of techniques that emphasise monitoring (scout and record)
- Scouting consists of careful, regular and representative observations of pests and diseases
- Any actions taken, based on scouting, are followed up by an evaluation for outcome (circular thinking)
- Use of selective pesticides in preference to broad-spectrum materials
- Reduction of pesticide risks and reliance on pesticides
- Production of crops that meet market standards
- Minimal impacts on the environment.

IPM programmes ensure management is applied only when crop monitoring shows action thresholds are reached and intervention is needed:

- Under light pest pressure, no or few pesticide applications will be required
- Under extreme pest pressure, the number of applications may exceed calendar spraying.

IPM can be divided into four categories that are usually applied in the following sequence:

- Prevention (quarantine, cultural controls, plant resistance, biological control)
- Decision tools (pest thresholds, crop monitoring)
- Intervention (biological control, chemical control, managing resistance)
- Evaluation (outcome of any decisions and interventions applied).

IPM is not

- Organic farming
 - IPM seeks to minimise or optimise the use of high risk synthetic pesticides, but it recognises that pesticides will be needed to maintain highly productive agriculture for the foreseeable future
 - Organic farmers can, however, incorporate IPM principles
- Low input, low yield farming
 - IPM evaluations over the years generally indicate that IPM maintains or increases yields while reducing production costs, resulting in increased net profits.



IPM is circular thinking



For more information

Mette Nielsen / Mette.Nielsen@plantandfood.co.nz

DISCLAIMER: While every effort has been made to ensure the information in this fact sheet is accurate, The New Zealand Institute for Plant and Food Research Limited (Plant & Food Research) cannot guarantee its accuracy and does not give any assurance as to the suitability of any such information for any particular use. Plant & Food Research will not be liable in any way for any loss, damages or costs which may be incurred by any person in relation to this information.

CB0-883

Acknowledgements

Funded by Strawberry Growers New Zealand and Ministry for Primary Industries Sustainable Farming Fund.

Thanks to Berryworld, IPM Technologies, and Bioforce.



Funded by Sustainable Farming Fund

