

## 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](mailto: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

