

UF/IFAS Extension Hendry County

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Integrated Pest Management

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Management of pests and diseases can be challenging for Florida growers, even under optimum conditions, given the diversity of pest problems in our state and a generally favorable environment for their growth and development.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a process consisting of the balanced use of cultural, biological, and chemical procedures that are environmentally compatible, economically feasible, and socially acceptable to reduce pest populations to tolerable levels while maximizing productivity in a way that is ecologically sound and safe.

IPM is based on taking preventive measures to avoid or solve a pest problem. Often, but not always, it means limiting the use of broad-spectrum insecticides and miticides.

General IPM principles include regular scouting or monitoring for problems, identifying pests and their life stages, keeping good records of pest management

practices, using exclusion techniques, practicing good sanitation, testing soil or plants for nutrients, using biological controls when possible, and using selective pesticides, properly timed and applied.

Goals of This Chapter

- Be able to define integrated pest management.
- Understand the benefits and components of integrated pest management.
- Learn about various non-chemical pest management strategies.
- Learn what is meant by the term economic threshold.
- Understand the role of monitoring and assessment in an IPM program.

Practicing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) can reduce the quantity of chemical pesticides entering the environment and can save money.