

Western Region IR-4

Prepared by Ronda E. Hirnyck¹, Sally D. O'Neal², James J. Farrar³, and Rebecca Sisco⁴

¹ University of Idaho, ² Washington State University, ³ Western Integrated Pest Management Center/University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, ⁴ Western Region IR-4/University of California, Davis

on behalf of the WRIR4 State Liaison Representatives

The thirteen states and Pacific Island Territories that constitute the Western Region are responsible for well over

40%

of the nation's IR-4 residue trials each year, thanks to cooperation from all 13 State Liaison Representatives, 9 Field Centers, and laboratories at UC Davis and WSU.

Protecting specialty crops

- Companies that develop and sell plant protection products focus their resources on major crops to maximize profit.
- When a specialty crop (food or ornamental) needs help justifying its need for a new tool, IR-4 can step in and help.
- Through FIELD TRIALS, the potential product is assessed for efficacy and pesticide residues.
- Samples go through LABORATORY ANALYSIS to determine the amount of residue on the crop.
- Rigorous QUALITY ASSURANCE methodologies and documentation pave the way for EPA approval.
- IR-4 supports establishment of "full" (Section 3) registrations, Special Local Need (24c) registrations, and Emergency Use (Section 18) Exemptions, on a case-by-case basis.

Since its inception in 1964, IR-4 has facilitated registration of **15,000** food crop uses, as well as registrations supporting **11,000** ornamental uses.

Practicing IPM

Our Mission
in a Nutshell

- The purpose of the IR-4 Program is to ensure that producers of specialty crops and ornamental plants have adequate tools to conduct sound, sustainable integrated pest management (IPM).
- IR-4 has always focused on protecting options for growers while ensuring food and environmental safety.
- IR-4 has had a Biopesticides Program since 1982.
- Now, more than ever, IR-4 fits hand-in-glove with the principles of IPM.
- All new IR-4 projects must document their IPM fit.
- Increased focus on criteria from the IPM Roadmap: efficacy, economics, non-target effects, resistance mitigation, environmental fate, worker safety, pest forecasting, prevention.

Promoting global trade

- Today's IR-4 is focused on removing barriers to international trade.
- Seeking to provide safe, plentiful, and diverse food products worldwide.
- Increased awareness of and attention to international sensitivities.
- Actively working to harmonize Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) and tolerances around the world.

IR-4 receives the bulk of its funding from the United States Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA). Other funding sources include USDA-ARS, USDA-FAS, USDA-APHIS, Agricultural Experiment Stations affiliated with U.S. land-grant universities, and grants from industry.

The
IR-4
Project



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

Western
IPM
Center

<http://wrir4.ucdavis.edu>

Over 1,000 new pesticide clearances (tolerances) were approved in 2012 and 2013. The ebb and flow over the decade reflects typical submission review cycles and occasional regulatory changes. Many of these new products are considered reduced-risk options, and all of them provide options for the specialty crop growers' IPM toolkit.

