

**MID-ATLANTIC INFORMATION NETWORK FOR PESTICIDES  
AND ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES - WV (WVInPAS)  
State Network Projects Grant Proposal**

**Non-technical Summary**

Stakeholders in agriculture need to be kept abreast of current trends in pest management. It is important for their livelihood. Pest management strategies are ever changing with restrictions on long term used chemical pesticides and need for replacement. Alternative methods are moving to the forefront. In West Virginia, crops requiring pest management are apples, peaches, small fruit, tomatoes, potatoes, sweet corn, and alfalfa and field corn associated with livestock. More chemical pesticides are applied to apples than any other crop. The West Virginia pesticide and alternative strategies program has provided reliable information, linking to stakeholders and West Virginia researchers by maintaining contact with neighboring partner universities with pesticide and alternative programs, the agricultural industries, and the West Virginia and federal regulatory agencies. Current information is provided by direct contact, mail, e-mail, newsletter, and website information. Developed crop profiles and the Mid-Atlantic apple pest management strategic plan are currently used as information to Extension agents and consequently, stakeholders.

**Progress Report-2005**

The following is a progress report summary of the WVInPAS program activities.

**Objectives:**

**1. Information Source for Federal/West Virginia Agencies**

The West Virginia pesticide and alternative strategies program has met the objective by providing reliable information, linking to stakeholders and West Virginia researchers by maintaining contact with neighboring partner universities with pesticide and alternative programs, the agricultural industries, and the West Virginia and federal regulatory agencies.

**2. Advisory Committee**

The West Virginia pesticide and alternative strategies program met this objective by maintaining contacts with the West Virginia Advisory Committee members to keep them abreast of pest management issues and seek their advice and recommendations.

### **3. Liaison**

The West Virginia pesticide and alternative strategies program has met this objective by serving as a liaison among the Northeastern IPM Center, West Virginia University, and other key agencies in the state.

### **4. Communication to West Virginia Stakeholders**

The West Virginia pesticide and alternative strategies program has met this objective by communicating pest management information to stakeholders via direct contact, mail, e-mail, newsletter, and website information.

## **Results**

### **1. Advisory Committee**

The West Virginia advisory committee consists of 27 Members, which include: the West Virginia IPM Coordinator, Rakesh Chandran; staff of the West Virginia Department of Agriculture Pesticide Section, Grant Bishop and Peggy Powell; President of the West Virginia Pest Control Operators Association, Sue Spiroff; President of the West Virginia Nurseryman Association, Brian Beckett; West Virginia University Horticulture specialist, John Jett; WVU Entomologists, Linda Buttler and James Amrine; the West Virginia Pesticide Safety Education Program Coordinator Liaison, John F. Baniecki; the Extension Specialist for Plant Pathology, Alan Biggs; the Extension Specialist for Entomology, Henry Hogmire; IPM users such as growers and crop consultants, Extension agents, the Extension Specialist for Weeds and IR-4, Rakesh Chandran; and the Director of the organic farm project, James Kotcon, representing environmental groups. In addition, two newly recruited members from the WV- Environmental Stewardship Committee, Tom MucCutcheon and William Shocky, West Virginia University Extension agents, have joined the Advisory Committee in 2005.

Members of the West Virginia Advisory committee were contacted by e-mail, phone, fax and regular mail to keep them abreast of the WVinPAS program activities and to communicate current pest management issues, and requesting their review comments and suggestions. Contact with members of the advisory committee was made in March, 2005 asking them to respond to a questioner dealing with current pesticide and alternative practices that was given to members of the advisory group during a meeting held on Nov. 10, 2004 at Jackson's Mill, West Virginia. Follow up contacts with the Advisory committee to request their input and comments were made in May and September, 2005. The advisory committee members made comments on important current pest management issues. The following is a summary list of their comments.

- There is no current effective pesticide available to use for control of Colorado Potato Beetle, Japanese Beetle, tree borers, tomato blight, black knot, fire blight, hemp dogbane, henbit, Canada thistles, and ground ivy;
- The pesticide label should be more specific and tell exactly what PPE to wear;
- Pesticide is lacking for management of squash vine borer, Asian lady beetle, iron weed, and horse nettle;
- Lack of insecticide to control Japanese beetle in brambles other than malathion with <3 days REI (Sevin has 7 days REI, and that is too long);
- A need for insecticide to control insect problems controlled previously by Diazinon;
- Anticipated Section 18 emergency exemption and 24(c) special local need pesticide registration requests;
- A need for environmentally safe nematicide;
- There is a need for producing scouting techniques, perhaps demonstration sites to teach farmers how to properly scout for pests.

Activities of the IWG in the Northeast were also discussed with the Advisory committee and contact via e-mail was done with IWG representatives for an update, but no new information was available to report on except for the previously identified regional priorities.

## **2. Coordination with Other Agencies and Programs**

The West Virginia pesticide and alternative strategies program continued to utilize the established links with federal, regional, West Virginia agencies and agricultural researchers, extension specialists, and other stakeholders to coordinate pest management program activities via e-mail, website, and a list serve.

We served as a liaison among the Northeastern IPM Center, West Virginia University, and other key agencies in state. Information such as release of RFAs (e.g., IPM Partnership Grants Program for 2006, The Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE) Farmer/Grower Grants for commercial farmers, EPA Region III proposals to help implement the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), and Regional IPM Competitive Grants Program was provided to Extension agents, Extension Specialists,

and West Virginia University faculty. We continue to solicit and facilitate applications from qualified individuals or groups in West Virginia for funds available from the NE IPM Center. The project director continues to participate in all subcontracts between the Northeastern IPM Center and other entities of West Virginia University in order to minimize total indirect costs for the Center. The project director continues to pass funds from the Northeastern IPM Center to any programs or individuals of West Virginia University that have contracts with the Center. The project director continues to communicate with West Virginia University Office of Sponsored Programs to ensure that grants are consolidated and funds are transmitted to Principle Investigators who hold NE IPM Center IPM Partnership grants.

Collaboration has been maintained with the West Virginia University IPM and IR-4 Programs. Cooperating research activities involve a study on the susceptibility of Kentucky Bluegrass under different regimes of composted poultry litter to Drechslera Leaf Spot (manuscript sent for publication). Information from the IPM Coordinator was placed in the "Look What's Out There in Integrated Pest Management" newsletter.

Collaboration has also been maintained between the Pesticide Safety Education Program, and the West Virginia Department of Agriculture. In joint efforts with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture staff members, site visits were made to selected locations in the state to monitor for Soybean rust. In a meeting held at Jackson's Mill, West Virginia on November 10, 2005, Extension agents, specialists, and University administrators were provided with handouts, brochures and posters on soybean rust and sudden oak death to involve them in plant diagnostic networking.

Cooperation across state lines and sharing of resources were discussed with members of MAinPAS at the Annual NE TriAgency meeting. Outcomes from the TriAgency meeting were shared with Extension agents, specialists, and stakeholders. Support was given to a MAinPAS member for a proposal to create a database for training material and resources, which could be shared across state lines.

Coordination of program activities is maintained with the MAinPAS partners (New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New York). A listserv is being utilized to facilitate communication across state lines, the New Jersey Network Project Director set up the listserv as "MAinPAS Partners" in March 2002. Members are using this listserv to transmit meeting minutes; announce and coordinate pesticide surveys, crop profiles, and pest management strategic plans (PMSP's); as well as announce the release of state newsletters such as West Virginia's "Look What's Out There." For instance, the New Jersey project director provided a CD with a video clip titled "An American Farm Tale," which was used in the WV-pesticide training program. Also, we continued to provide information on Section 18 and 24C for West

Virginia to be included in the home page for MAinPAS at:  
<http://www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/NJinPAS/PesticideRegistration/MAINPASHome.htm>.

Information on pest management practices were made available to federal/ West Virginia agencies in a timely manner in response to current and future issues dealing with IPM tactics, including pesticides. The URL for the West Virginia monthly newsletter was sent to the Northeastern IPM-center to be included in the center's newsletter "On Target."

### **3. Website, Newsletter, and other Stakeholder Outreach**

The West Virginia Pesticide and Alternative Strategies (WVinPAS) project web site has been maintained to facilitate communication links with stakeholders and comply with the NE IPM Center.

The site:

<http://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/ipm/pestprog/WVINPAS/index.htm>

1. Addresses regional priorities established by the NE IPM Center.
2. Is compatible with regional and national IPM Center sites.
3. Includes contact information for WVinPAS.
4. Includes a project description for WVinPAS.
5. Includes links to annual progress reports for WVinPAS.
6. Comply with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments to the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.
7. Includes links to the NE IPM Center and other appropriate entities.
8. Prominently displays, near the heading, the phrase, "The West Virginia component of the Northeastern IPM Center." The words "Northeastern IPM Center" will be hyperlinked to the Center web site.
9. Includes the statement: "This site is supported, in part, with funding from the Northeastern IPM Center."
10. Includes the date of the most recent update.
11. Conforms to all format and content standards to be developed by the NE IPM Center.

Pesticide information, WV-crop profile information and IPM program activities have been included in the newly named newsletter "Look What's Out There in Integrated Pest Management", which is linked to the West Virginia Pest Management Web site. Announcement of this information and the URL were sent electronically to a mailing list of stakeholders. Growers and Extension agents were contacted to add their names to the mailing list using the "add name feature on the web site." Key members of state-wide commodity groups were added to the e-mail list for notification of new postings of our newsletter. Notice of new posting of the WV- newsletter "LWOT" was sent to the Northeast IPM-center to be included in the center's newsletter "On Target."

[http://northeastipm.org/news\\_ontarget.cfm](http://northeastipm.org/news_ontarget.cfm)

A web site listing direct links to West Virginia Extension professionals has been maintained and made known to other agencies.

<http://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/ipm/contacts.htm>,

#### **4. Work Pertaining to Regulatory Issues**

Contact was made with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, Pesticides Division to seek information on Section 18 emergency exemption update information. In addition, we have obtained information on strategy and pesticide registration to manage soybean rust. This information was related to West Virginia stakeholders via list serve.

A meeting with staff members of the West Virginia Department of Agriculture is scheduled for Dec. 8, 2005 to discuss registration of pesticides in West Virginia. Information obtained from the meeting will be provided to our stakeholders via e-mail, and list serve.

Pesticide information dealing with registration, cancellation and web site update were included in a monthly newsletter, "Look What's Out There in Integrated Pest Management."

#### **5. Other Work**

The WVinPAS program provided technical assistance to State associations (Pest Control Operators Association, Vegetation Management Association, and Golf course Superintendents Association) to facilitate training of their members to maintain pesticide certification. We participated in commodity meetings and pesticide-user meetings to stay abreast of pest control measures used in the state.

A survey was conducted to gather information on Genetically Modified Corn as alternative to use of pesticide in the state. Name list of growers who used GM corn was obtained from Extension Agents. Further contacts with these growers will be set to collect further information on GM corn and its utility.

Presentation on pesticide and the environment was delivered to 75 Biology students at West Virginia University. Presentations on pesticide and pest management were given to stakeholders in Ritchie and Wood counties.

Plant Identification clinics were conducted in several counties across the state to provide stakeholders with technical information on integrated pest management and problem solving techniques.

Presentations on plant diseases and their management were delivered to approximately 180 Master Gardener candidates in 12 counties in West Virginia.

The WVinPAS submitted an article titled "Avoiding Plant Diseases in the Garden" to be published in the West Virginia Garden Calendar-2005.

A CD with images of Plant Diseases: Field Crops, Fruit, Ornamentals, Turf, Vegetables was updated and made available to county Extension agents for their reference. Also, a CD with images of Insects: Field Crops, Fruit, Household, Ornamentals, Turf, Vegetables was developed and made available to county Extension agents as a reference.

Two PowerPoint presentations titled (Turf Diseases and Management, and Dealing with Landscape Problems) were developed and presented to stakeholders in the counties.

The WVinPAS program provided technical and financial assistance for the development of a DVD for the Private Applicator Recertification Training-2005.

A meeting for The Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture was attended in Feb. 2005. Information gathered from the meeting was used to prepare a presentation on pesticide and the environment. Also, other technical information was related to Extension agents in reply to stakeholders' questions.

The Northeastern Region Pesticide Safety Education Center meeting was attended in Sept. 2005. Pesticide training materials and information obtained from the meeting were utilized in the preparation of hands on pesticide safety demonstration and presentation, which was delivered to West Virginia's stakeholders at Ritchie and Wood counties. A train the trainer certificate was received.

The WVinPAS program provided technical review for the pesticide and plant pathology sections of the West Virginia Master Gardener Manual.