**IPM Planning Template**

IPM is a stepwise approach to managing pests that combines accurate knowledge of the pest and level of potential harm with multiple tactics to prevent, reduce or eliminate the effect of pests (disease, insects, weeds or even abiotic issues) on your crops. In this planning template, we will select a few key pests to tackle using the IPM principles of monitoring, scouting, and implementing effective cultural, biological, and chemical controls at the right time.

1. **Crop & Pest:** *Choose no more than 5 pest and crop combinations you would most like to work on this season.* We have found that focusing on no more than 5 pest issues each season on your most valuable or newest crops leads to more successful pest management because it allows the grower to learn the pest life cycle, and become more confident at using control strategies that work. Each season, new issues may come up and over time, you will become an IPM expert!
2. **Past Control Strategies**: *Write down what strategies you have tried before.*
   1. **What didn’t work?** *Write down what didn’t work for you to manage this pest in the past.* Take a moment to think about your crop quality or yields this season related to the pest in question. Did you reduce pesticide use or other inputs such as labor on this crop this season? Did you make more money on this crop? Perhaps some of your strategies worked, but not others. You may write, “I don’t know”, especially if you are working with a crop or new invasive pest you don’t have much experience with.
3. **Future IPM Strategies**: Think broadly at first about the IPM tools and strategies you will use in your 2018 plan.Be picky, only *write down the**strategies* ***you will use*** *in this column.*
   1. **Accurate identification:** Determine the true underlying cause of the pest problem through soil or plant tissue testing, disease diagnostics, insect and weed identification, or other methods. Often we find that in the first year of working with a grower on their IPM plan, pest identification is the most important task.
   2. **Pest scouting:** Determine pest levels, damage, life stage, and keep records over time. We recommend weekly scouting for most crops (more frequently sometimes as the crop nears thresholds for some pests). Here are some pest scouting sheets we developed for different crops:

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| [Allium](https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/projects/related-files/allium.pdf) | [Eggplant](https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/projects/related-files/eggplant.pdf) | [Strawberry](https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/projects/related-files/strawberry.pdf) |
| [Brassica](https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/projects/related-files/brassica.pdf) | [Pepper](https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/projects/related-files/pepper.pdf) | [Sweet corn](https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/projects/related-files/sweet_corn.pdf) |
| [Cucurbit](https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/projects/related-files/cucurbit.pdf) | [Potato](https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/projects/related-files/potato.pdf) | [Tomato](https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/projects/related-files/tomato.pdf) |

* 1. **Monitoring & Forecasting:** Use data loggers, pheromone traps, online networks, pest models and pest or weather forecasts to monitor or predict pest arrival/emergence and potential for damage.
  2. **Cultural practices:** E.g. crop rotation, mulches, irrigation, resistant varieties, row covers
  3. **Biological control:** Attract and/or release beneficials, predators or parasitoids to control pests.
  4. **Chemical control:** Choose the right materials, time to spray, improving coverage, and managing for resistance.

1. **This Year’s Plan:** Fill in the blank with the appropriate year, for your records. Get more specific with the strategies you just wrote down in the previous column. Use our [**Scouting Toolkit Inventory**](https://ag.umass.edu/sites/ag.umass.edu/files/pdf-doc-ppt/scouting_tool_kit_inventory.pdf) to find out what you will need for the season and where to get it. Write down the tools and supplies needed, people involved, resources to use, etc. Write down the steps necessary to implement your plan and who will do them.
2. **Calendar Alert**: *When does each task need to done or planned?* Jot down dates or set calendar reminders to make sure you set up traps on time, know when to begin scouting for a pest, etc. Review past *Pest Alerts* in *Vegetable Notes* to get an idea of when pests first appeared in your area, or rely on past experience to plan.
3. **Notes**: Consider outside influences which may not be directly related to your plan, but which may impact your success, for example equipment or labor shortages, unpredictable weather, underlying field conditions (ie. rocky, low fertility, prior crops and surrounding environment), etc. *Write down any of these outside influences which may have a specific effect on your plan*.

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| **Crop** | **Pest** | **Past Control Strategies** | **Future IPM Strategies** | **This Year’s Plan: \_\_\_\_** | **Calendar Alert** | **Notes** |
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| **Crop** | **Pest** | **Past Control Strategies** | **Future IPM Strategies** | **This Year’s Plan: \_\_\_\_** | **Calendar Alert** | **Notes** |
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Find everything you need to complete this plan and carry it out next year on the [**Scouting Resources**](https://ag.umass.edu/vegetable/resources-services/scouting-resources) section of our website. You are now well prepared! Have an idea that’s not quite fleshed out? Need some help talking through your plan? Have some ideas about how to improve this planning template? Give us a call: Sue Scheufele, and Lisa McKeag (413)577-3976, or Katie Campbell-Nelson (413)545-1051 or write to us at: [umassveg@umass.edu](mailto:umassveg@umass.edu).