NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Pesticide Control Program
Pesticide Evaluation & Monitoring

NJFMEP PLEDGE Survey – 2007

In the months between September 2006 and January 2007, the NJDEP Pesticide Control Program provided licensed Private Applicators with the opportunity to receive 1 unit of Core credit for completing a survey. The survey was designed to collect general information about issues impacting New Jersey's growers as well as an overview of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices. We were hopeful this survey would provide useful information that would lead to more crop/issue specific surveys in the future and allow the Pesticide Control Program to better respond to the needs of our growers.

173 surveys were completed. A summary of the results follows.

How long have you been growing commodities in NJ?
128 responses. The average response was 30 years.

Are you an organic grower?
12 responses. Ten of the responses were "yes"; the other 2 responses were "mostly" and "not yet".

> **How long have you been practicing organic farming?**
> Of the 12 individuals that responded to the previous question, only 6 provided a specific length of time. One individual responded "20 years" while the average of the other 5 individuals was 1.8 years. The individual who responded "20 years" also indicated they were not certified organic.

Do you grow any greenhouse crops?
50 responded "yes" to this question.

> **Please list crops:**
> Responses included tomatoes, cantaloupes, seedlings, greens, bedding plants, perennials, wood ornamentals-shrubs, flowers, annuals, poinsettias, vegetable plants, peppers, lettuce, eggplant, hanging baskets, cabbage, cucumbers, mums, melons, and transplants.

Rank the following issues based on importance (1 is the most important, 7 the least)
171 responses. Many of the responses did not follow the format of the question. The only responses that were not included were those that did not answer the question at all.

Crop disease management	***Most Important***
Insect, mite & pest management	
New pest control techniques	
Pesticide exposure	
Crop fertility & nutrition	
New crops and plant evaluation	
Energy efficiency or investment	***Least Important***

DO YOU…

	Respondents	**Always**	**Sometimes**	**Never**
Rotate crops to reduce pest and weed pressure?	153	64%	28%	8%
Use soil/lab test to identify potential problems?	155	46%	50%	4%
Select crop varieties with disease or insect resistance?	154	58%	39%	3%

	Respondents	**Always**	**Sometimes**	**Never**
Clean equipment between fields?	157	34%	46%	20%
Manage weeds in border areas?	152	40%	57%	3%
Destroy old crop debris soon after harvest?	156	58%	34%	8%

	Respondents	**Always**	**Sometimes**	**Never**
Keep field maps/histories of pest management programs?	162	60%	28%	12%

Calibrate your sprayers:

	Respondents	**Always**	**Sometimes**	**Never**
At the beginning of each growing season?	155	84%	14%	2%
Recalibrate as needed during the growing season?	146	57%	37%	6%

	Respondents	**Always**	**Sometimes**	**Never**
Only apply when pest populations exceed the economic threshold?	152	59%	37%	4%

Rotate classes of pesticides to avoid pesticide resistance?	151	66%	32%	2%
Consider the effects of a pesticide on beneficial organisms?	147	56%	39%	5%

Follow Rutgers Recommendations for:

	Respondents	**Always**	**Sometimes**	**Never**
Chemical programs?	155	75%	23%	2%
Insect threshold levels?	151	60%	38%	2%

Scout your fields for:

	Respondents	**Always**	**Sometimes**	**Never**
Insects?	164	84%	16%	0
Weeds?	162	78%	22%	0
Diseases?	161	83%	17%	0

If your fields are scouted, who does the scouting?

	Respondents	**Always**	**Sometimes**	**Never**
Self	150	75%	25%	0
Partner/family member	84	39%	61%	0
Employee	56	16%	82%	2%
Farm supply/chemical dealer	55	38%	60%	2%
Rutgers Extension Specialist	73	49%	48%	3%
Crop consultant/commercial scout	61	36%	59%	5%

What is your estimated impact of adopting IPM on your overall yield? Increase ___% Decrease ___%
107 responses. 26 individuals simply indicated a decrease in yield with a check mark. The remaining respondents indicated increasing yields ranging from 0-100%.