Due to county budget restrictions this newsletter will only be sent out on a quarterly basis. Information will continue to be sent to all green industry individuals on a regular, weekly basis electronically should you wish to subscribe by e-mail.

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Ten Great Applied and Potential IPM Practices for Nurseries in the Southeastern US

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One-hundred twenty-six growers from Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, South Carolina, and Tennessee completed a survey regarding IPM practices in nurseries. Growers were asked to rate the importance of each practice as "High," "Moderate," or "Low." Based on the survey results, growers said they were most interested in disease identification and scouting, followed by recording information, pest identification, and insect monitoring. Growers were also asked to identify the most important pests they were monitoring, with the most common being Aphididae (36 percent), followed by Sparganothinae (29 percent) and Spodoptera (25 percent).

1. IPM is a sustainable approach that integrates practices such as biological, cultural, physical, and chemical methods to manage pests and diseases. By using a combination of these methods, growers can reduce the number of pests in the nursery and maintain healthy plants.

2. It’s that time of year again. If you don’t already utilize soil testing services provided by NCDA&CS soil testing lab, you should. It is still one of the only FREE services available to you. While the current estimated turn around time is about one week, that processing time is sure to get longer as we approach fall planting season. In addition to the standard test, you will also receive site-specific fertilizer and lime recommendations that can optimize crop yields, improve farm efficiency, reduce production costs, and help you to conserve natural resources. So, if you haven’t done so yet, get those soil samples submitted and avoid the rush.

3. Develop a seasonal weed map. Only 8 percent of growers make a weedmap. A weedmap identifies problem weeds in common nurseries and is a useful tool for planning the location of new plantings. Growers who use weedmaps are more likely to have adopted other IPM practices compared to growers who do not.

4. Approximately, 41 percent of growers follow a standardized sampling plan when scouting for diseases and pests. A standardized sampling plan helps to ensure that the same plants are sampled each time, making it easier to compare data and detect changes over time.

5. Develop a seasonal weed map. Only 8 percent of growers create a weedmap. A weedmap identifies problem weeds in common nurseries and is a useful tool for planning the location of new plantings. Growers who use weedmaps are more likely to have adopted other IPM practices compared to growers who do not.

6. The IPM program is a method for managing pests and diseases that is based on scientific principles. It involves monitoring the pest population, evaluating the damage caused by the pest, and then selecting the most effective management strategy to control the pest.

7. New IPM tools, such as pheromones and trap crops, are being developed to help control pests in nurseries. These tools can be used to disrupt the mating of pests or to attract pests to traps, where they can be monitored or collected.

8. Relativley apply fungicides. Biocides, mycorrhizae, and neem products are used to control diseases in nurseries. Growers who use these products are more likely to have adopted other IPM practices compared to growers who do not.

9. 40% of growers use a standardized sampling plan for pest management. The same plants are sampled each time, making it easier to compare data and detect changes over time.