Integrated pest management in ornamentals information kit
Reprint – information current in 2000

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This publication has been reprinted as a digital book without any changes to the content published in 2000. We advise readers to take particular note of the areas most likely to be out-of-date and so requiring further research:

- Chemical recommendations—check with an agronomist or Infopest www.infopest.qld.gov.au
- Financial information—costs and returns listed in this publication are out of date. Please contact an adviser or industry body to assist with identifying more current figures.
- Varieties—new varieties are likely to be available and some older varieties may no longer be recommended. Check with an agronomist, call the Business Information Centre on 13 25 23, visit our website www.deedi.qld.gov.au or contact the industry body.
- Contacts—many of the contact details may have changed and there could be several new contacts available. The industry organisation may be able to assist you to find the information or services you require.
- Organisation names—most government agencies referred to in this publication have had name changes. Contact the Business Information Centre on 13 25 23 or the industry organisation to find out the current name and contact details for these agencies.
- Additional information—many other sources of information are now available for each crop. Contact an agronomist, Business Information Centre on 13 25 23 or the industry organisation for other suggested reading.

Even with these limitations we believe this information kit provides important and valuable information for intending and existing growers.

This publication was last revised in 2000. The information is not current and the accuracy of the information cannot be guaranteed by the State of Queensland.

This information has been made available to assist users to identify issues involved in ornamental horticulture. This information is not to be used or relied upon by users for any purpose which may expose the user or any other person to loss or damage. Users should conduct their own inquiries and rely on their own independent professional advice.

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Integrated Pest Management in Ornamentals: Information Guide

Authors

Stephen Goodwin
Marilyn Steiner
Russell Parker
Len Tesoriero
Geoff Connellan
Edda Keskula
Briony Cowper
Alison Medhurst
Claudina Rodriguez

New South Wales Agriculture in conjunction with
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  Project Leader — Noel Vock
  Publishing production — Loraine Chapman
  Editor — Glenis Ayling
  Customer service — Lourelle Heintjes

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Enquiries should be addressed to:
Agrilink Manager
Department of Primary Industries
Maroochy Horticultural Research Station
PO Box 5269 SCMC
Nambour 4560 Qld Australia
Ph: (07) 5444 9690 Fax: (07) 5444 9694 Int Code: + 61 7
E-mail: agrilink@dpi.qld.gov.au
Web: www.dpi.qld.gov.au/agrilink

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Author profiles

Dr Stephen Goodwin
Stephen is a senior entomologist with NSW Agriculture, based at the Horticultural Research and Advisory Station, Gosford. He has more than 25 years experience in biological control and integrated pest management (IPM) in horticultural crops, more recently specialising in pest management in protected crops nationally. He is coordinator of the Horticultural Research and Development Corporation (HRDC)-funded project on IPM in Greenhouse Crops. In 1995 Stephen organised an international thrips research workshop at Gosford; in 1998, a visit by a Canadian greenhouse biocontrol producer to discuss biocontrol rearing techniques with local producers; and in 1999 a visit by five overseas greenhouse IPM specialists to participate in an industry workshop in four States.

Address: Horticultural Research and Advisory Station, NSW Agriculture, Research Road, Narara NSW 2250.

Marilyn Steiner
Marilyn is a senior entomologist with NSW Agriculture, based at the Horticultural Research and Advisory Station, Gosford. She has 20 years experience in biological control and IPM in the greenhouse industry in Canada, where she was responsible for evaluating new pesticides and biocontrol agents and in developing IPM programs for the Alberta greenhouse vegetable, ornamentals and plantscapes industries. In Australia, Marilyn has undertaken research to identify native natural enemies for development as biocontrol agents against western flower thrips. She has an interest in the identification and effects of microbial contaminants in biocontrol agents, particularly phytoseiid mites.

Address: Horticultural Research and Advisory Station, NSW Agriculture, Research Road, Narara NSW 2250.

Russell Parker
Russell is a computer programmer with the Department of Primary Industries, Queensland Horticulture Institute, based at Maroochy Research Station, Nambour. He develops software applications for farm recording. Previously Russell had seven years experience as a district experimentalist working on the development and adoption of IPM using beneficial insects and mites, and pesticides in ornamental crops.

Address: Maroochy Research Station, Queensland Horticulture Institute, Mayers Road, Nambour QLD 4560.

Len Tesoriero
Len Tesoriero is a senior plant pathologist with NSW Agriculture, based at the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute (EMAI), Camden. Len has 19 years experience in plant pathology with specialist skills in diagnostic pathology of vegetables and ornamentals. He currently coordinates the Plant Health Diagnostic Service at EMAI. Len has completed several industry-funded research projects on the detection and integrated management of diseases.

Address: Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, NSW Agriculture, Woodbridge Road, Camden NSW 2570.

Geoff Connellan
Geoff is a principal lecturer with the University of Melbourne, based at Burnley. Geoff has 20 years experience in the development of improved performance in Australian greenhouses. He has extensive research, education and advisory experience in greenhouse technology, particularly in greenhouse design, covering materials and environmental control. Geoff has published widely in Australia and internationally and is involved in national technical committees including Standards Australia and the Australian irrigation industry.

Address: Burnley College, University of Melbourne, Yarra Boulevard, Richmond VIC 3121.

Edda Keskula
Edda is a plant protection officer (nurseries) with NSW Agriculture, based at the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, Camden. Edda is employed on a project funded by HRDC, Horticultural Stock and Nurseries Act NSW and NSW Agriculture to provide active surveillance, technical support and technology transfer for improved disease management in the NSW nursery industry. She is involved with the Plant Health Diagnostic Service to the NSW nursery industry.

Address: Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, NSW Agriculture, Woodbridge Road, Camden NSW 2570.

Briony Cowper
Briony is a technical officer with NSW Agriculture, based at the Horticultural Research and Advisory Station, Gosford. Briony has been employed on an HRDC grant to provide technical support to the
National Greenhouse IPM project for the past two and a half years. She has previous experience in fruit fly genetics.

Address: Horticultural Research and Advisory Station, NSW Agriculture, Research Road, Narara NSW 2250.

**Alison Medhurst**
Alison is a technical officer with Agriculture Victoria, based at the Institute for Horticultural Development, Knoxfield. Alison has been employed on an HRDC grant to provide technical support to the National Greenhouse IPM project for the past two and a half years. She has broad experience in horticulture, including working in IPM for five years, and two years in pome and stone fruit and insect taxonomy.

Address: Agriculture Victoria, Institute for Horticultural Development, 621 Burwood Highway, Knoxfield VIC 3180.

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**Claudina Rodriguez**
Claudina is a technical officer with the Department of Primary Industries, Queensland Horticulture Institute, based at the Centre for Amenity and Environmental Horticulture, Redlands. Claudina has been employed on an HRDC grant to provide technical support to the National Greenhouse IPM project for the past three years. She has previously worked as a cotton scout and on IPM pest projects in cotton for the Department of Primary Industries in Queensland.

Address: Centre for Amenity and Environmental Horticulture, Queensland Horticulture Institute, Delancey Street, Cleveland QLD 4613.

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*IPM starts with monitoring*
Welcome to the IPM information guide

Integrated pest management (IPM) is not a new concept. In the broader context of using all available methods of controlling pests and diseases, IPM, of necessity, preceded the use of pesticides. The period after World War II gave us new chemicals that held pests at bay in a way that farmers for millennia could only dream about. The environment soon began to suffer from indiscriminate use of these new age pesticides and miracle cures failed because pests eventually became resistant to them.

Over the past 20 years, major changes have taken place in the thinking of growers, the public and governments about pest and disease management. It is no longer acceptable to think only in terms of pesticides when faced, inevitably, with crop losses due to pests and diseases. A revolution has been taking place in approaches to pest management. What was once considered relevant only to committed environmentalists has become standard practice.

There are many facets of this new integrated approach to pest and disease management. The intention of this publication Integrated Pest Management in Ornamentals: Information Guide is to highlight the most important ones relevant to the ornamentals industry in Australia. Many of these are just plain common sense. Good growers already practice sound pest and disease management to some degree.

A lot of thought has gone into developing the information guide that you have before you. We felt that it should have two main uses. It should be:

- a practical guide to IPM for all ornamentals producers, including outdoor, shadehouse and greenhouse situations
- a reference document to provide you with relevant contacts, products and further information.

The need for a proper understanding of IPM in ornamentals has meant providing you with a lot of detail in this guide. Don’t be put off by its size. Use this information guide according to the particular needs of your operation. In addition, make sure that your staff get an opportunity to learn from it.

Before you attempt to develop an IPM program for your property, we would advise you to undertake the industry training course on IPM for ornamentals producers. The course provides competency-based learning and is an essential requirement for producers and staff. It supports competencies in managing plant health and developing an IPM program. The course is available from industry approved accredited trainers.

Integrated Pest Management in Ornamentals: Information Guide will serve as a resource document for the training course.

Producers should also buy a copy of the companion pocket-sized Pests, Diseases, Disorders and Beneficials in Ornamentals: Field Identification Guide, see Section 10, Further reading (page 5). It provides a visual guide to identifying organisms and disorders affecting ornamentals in Australia, and to commercially available biocontrol agents. Each entry is illustrated with colour photographs.

The information guide and field identification guide are cross-referenced for easy use.

The contents of this information guide and how to use them to best advantage are explained in an easy-to-use manner in How to use this information guide on page viii.

Dr Stephen Goodwin
Coordinator
National Greenhouse IPM project
NSW Agriculture
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How to use this information guide

For those considering IPM for the first time, Section 1, What is IPM? provides a brief description of the subject, its challenges and benefits.

If you are looking for a fast track to information on IPM, then try Section 2, Common questions. These came from a survey of growers and IPM specialists. The questions are comprehensive and will give you a head start to understanding many of the more obvious issues.

The companion pocket guide Pests, Diseases, Disorders and Beneficials in Ornamentals: Field Identification Guide (Section 10, Further reading) is also available to Australian ornamental plant producers. The field identification guide is a simple visual guide to identifying organisms and damage. For more detailed information on key pest and disease organisms affecting ornamentals in this guide, see Section 5, Know your pests and Section 6, Know your diseases.

For advice on designing an IPM program and using IPM on your property, key information can be found in Section 3, Preparing for IPM: property and staff and in Section 4, Designing an IPM program: monitoring and decision making. They provide essential information pertinent to the practical aspects of IPM in all ornamental crops. This includes site, management, cultural, chemical and staff considerations. How you should monitor and keep records, and using your records to develop your own action thresholds can also be found in these two sections. In addition, there is more detail on greenhouse structures, the greenhouse environment, and spray application equipment.

Biocontrol is a valuable approach that can make a significant contribution to reduced chemical use. Section 7, Know your biocontrol agents provides advice on which biocontrol agents are commercially available in Australia and how to make best use of them in an integrated approach to crop protection. It also details which chemicals are safe to use with biocontrol agents and which are not.

If you are looking for a consultant, biocontrol agent producers, or where you might get hold of sticky traps in your State, see Section 9, Directory.

Section 8, Crop notes helps you build a database of pests and diseases on your property. Most ornamentals producers have a range of crops in continuous production and there are overlapping production schedules. This has meant that data on key pests and diseases in ornamentals and seasonal patterns of occurrence are very difficult to obtain.

We would like to provide the ornamentals industry with a clearer picture of the major pests and diseases in their crops. Industry needs a database of this information to assist producers to understand what to expect and to anticipate their occurrence. For any State, this database will help producers designing their own monitoring programs to anticipate the likely major problems.

Please help us make this a better IPM guide for future users by filling out the two blank forms in Section 8, Crop notes and sending them to one of the addresses provided. Make copies of the blank forms before you start using those provided.

And finally, for further details on useful Internet sites on IPM, relevant books, magazines and videos, turn to Section 10, Further reading.

Section 11, Glossary and Section 12, Index are designed to make it easier to use this information. We hope you find Integrated Pest Management in Ornamentals: Information Guide a useful contribution towards improving your pest and disease management practices and making your property a healthier, happier and safer workplace.

A sticky trap is an effective monitoring tool