The Critical Role of IR-4 in Specialty Crop Pest Management

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IR-4’s mission is to provide safe and effective pest management solutions for growers of high value specialty crops, which includes most vegetables, fruits, nuts, herbs, nursery and flower crops. The total value of these crops in the U.S. is approximately $43 billion which represents 46% of the total U.S. farm crop value.

Specialty Crops Include Most:
- Vegetables
- Floral
- Fruits
- Nursery
- Nuts
- Landscape
- Herbs
- Turf
- Spices
- Christmas Trees

IR-4... is the ONLY
Publicly funded program that conducts research and submits petitions to EPA for tolerances/clearances

IR-4 Program Track Record for Food Use Clearances

The Reduced Risk Products that IR-4 works on are vitally important for integrated pest management programs. Making IR-4’s role increasingly critical for maintaining the efficient and competitive production of high value specialty crops.

The IR-4 Regulatory Clearance Process

The Process Starts with Requests
Submitted from:
* Growers,
* Grower Groups,
* State/Federal Research & Extension Personnel

Requests Prioritized

Top Priority Researched That Year
Second Priorities Researched as Money Allows

Field and Lab Research
- Measure Residue levels in Crop/Crop Group
- Top Priorities completed in 30 months

Manufacturer Adds Crop to the Product Label

Tolerance Established by EPA

Data Submitted to EPA

Risk Assessment