

Protecting Florida's

Agriculture, Communities and Environments through

Integrated Pest Management

Plant diseases and insects cause billions of dollars of damage to agricultural and horticultural crops each year. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an ecosystem-based, socially acceptable, environmentally responsible, and economically viable approach to crop protection that focuses on long-term prevention of damage that can be caused by pests and diseases. Using a variety of compatible techniques to solve pest problems is proven to be more effective than using one method alone. UF/IFAS Extension clients receive research-based IPM guidance, education, and services to maximize sustainability of their urban and agricultural enterprises.

In 2020, **117** UF/IFAS state specialists and county Extension faculty brought the latest IPM science and technology to Florida's residents and visitors.

UF/IFAS recommends a combination of techniques to keep Florida safe and sound:

- **Biological control** such as releasing beneficial insects instead of using pesticides
- **Habitat manipulations** such as invasive species removal
- **Modified cultural practices** such as using less water or chemicals
- Use of **pest- or disease-resistant** plants for landscapes and crops

2,187 producers reported increased dollar returns or reduced costs as a result of IPM educational programming.

Environmental impacts

- **10,129** producers adopted recommended IPM practices on **1,160,945** acres
- **3,208** clientele adopted appropriate fertilizer and pesticide usage rates
- **1,806** producers adopted recommended best practices for production agriculture related to invasive species, pollutant loads, and wetlands
- **41** viable technologies developed or modified for the increased sustainability, profitability, and/or competitiveness of agricultural or horticultural enterprises

