

Alabama IPM Priorities (2016):

To reduce potential human health risks from pests and related management strategies and improve cost benefit analyses when adopting IPM practices in:

A. Research Priorities

- i. Insecticide screening work with threecornered alfalfa hopper (*Spissistilus festinus*), to aid with recommendations to producers.
- ii. Sugarcane aphid (*Melanaphis sacchari*) population dynamics (where are they overwintering? / how does the population develop during the season? / what are the impacts of natural enemies?).
- iii. Determine efficacy of insecticide treatments for sugarcane aphid at different plant growth stages and planting dates.
- iv. Determine which chemicals can provide the longest residual for soybean looper (*Chrysodeixis includens*) at the least cost.
- v. Estimating yield losses from target spot in South Alabama cotton.
- vi. Cost-benefit analysis of using promising insecticide treatments for cowpea curculio in specialty crops.
- vii. Effective foliar spray for Mexican bean beetle (*Epilachna varivestis*).
- viii. Determine the basic biology / life cycle / distribution of the brown marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha halys*).
- ix. Efficacy trials for 25(b) products (EPA certified organic products) is needed in order to give proper recommendations to stakeholders.

B. Extension Priorities

- i. More information about trap crops via extension.
- ii. More information about pest exclusion techniques via extension.
- iii. More information about cucumber beetle (*Diabrotica undecimpunctata howardi*) control via extension.
- iv. IPM training that covers the whole production system for both conventional and non-conventional production (pre-planting, planting, harvest), which will allow producers to anticipate and deal with pest problems accordingly.
- v. Help in getting information out to school administration about IPM in order to change pest control practices in school systems from traditional to IPM.

C. Regulatory Priorities

- i. In school IPM, the current low bid system in Alabama (where a company can present a very low bid in order to obtain the pest control contract) makes it very difficult for pest control companies to bid on a contract using an IPM system. We need to work with the regulatory agency in the state in order to eliminate the low bid system.
- ii. We need to try to implement IPM certification for pest control companies in the state. This may help school systems know what to look for/ask for in a pest control company regarding IPM