

Topical Collection

Improving IPM of Specialty Crop Pests and Global Food Security

Message from the Collection Editors

Insects, weeds, and diseases are posing ever-evolving challenges to global agriculture and food security. Indeed, due to the increasing global population, investments are being made around the world to improve and develop sound scientific approaches to sustain specialty crop production and to provide continued food security in the face of these threats. Integrated pest management (IPM) is the practice of managing invasive and established pests to minimize pest injury using methods that are safe for the environment, humans, and production systems. Globally, pest managers are committed to building upon their past successes to increase implementation of IPM in specialty crops (vegetables, fruits, and nut crops). In recent decades, the most-commonly used method for pest management has been the direct application of agrochemicals. However, in response to environmental, economic, and other problems associated with over-reliance on synthetic chemicals, there has been an increasing drive towards the development and improvements of integrated pest management (IPM) strategies in specialty crops. Many IPM strategies are now well-developed under protected crop production settings.

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Insects

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Impact Factor 2.9
CiteScore 5.6
Indexed in PubMed



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