



# YEAR-END SUMMARY

Pest management solutions for  
specialty crops and specialty uses

Dear Friends,

Reflecting on IR-4's accomplishments in 2022, it is easy to be encouraged about our future. The Headquarters, Regional, and field teams remain focused and resilient, in spite of COVID-19 challenges and organizational change. IR-4 remains true to its roots, developing and submitting quality data to support new registrations of chemical and bio-based pesticides on specialty crops (including food and environmental horticulture crops).

While the "new normal" is a moving target, IR-4 continues to evolve. To help IR-4 prepare for the future, we asked a group of specialty crop pest management visionaries to provide recommendations to strengthen and modernize IR-4's operations. The Path Forward 2.0 Committee recommended that IR-4 develop detailed "IR-4-centric" performance expectations, increase funding reimbursement for field trials, enhance communications, improve employee training, embrace technology, and resolve the analytical laboratory backlog. The Path Forward 2.0 Committee was chaired by Dan Rossi with contributions by Rob Hedberg, Ray Ratto, Janis McFarland, and Barbara Madden.



In late 2022, we began implementing initiatives that address many of their recommendations. One is the upcoming launch of an electronic field data notebook (eFDB), which was vetted, developed, and tested in 2022. This technology has the potential to save IR-4 significant time in our residue studies. Other steps forward included naming Debbie Carpenter as National Laboratory Director, and significant improvements to IR-4's digital presence and brand through the leadership of IR-4's new National Information and Communications Officer, Hannah Ross.

For the first time in two years, many of us were able to gather in person. The Food Use Workshop was held in September in Minneapolis, MN with attendance rivaling pre-COVID numbers. Recognizing not all can or are willing to travel, IR-4 will continue to hold workshops (for food and environmental horticulture crops) in a hybrid format.

IR-4 Headquarters at North Carolina State University achieved a huge milestone in 2022. After a few transitional years and significant hiring of new team members, we are now fully staffed. We are really proud of the group— a talented mix of experienced and early-career people. They have jelled as a team and are quickly becoming highly proficient, bringing our office to life. With the opening of the George M. Markle Conference Room, and our first time hosting colleagues in the fall, this space now feels like home to IR-4.

We also applaud IR-4 Regional Field Coordinators, state/ARS Field Research Directors, and researchers across our programs— they are IR-4's connecting thread to growers and stakeholders nationwide who are the heart of our work. IR-4's Analytical Laboratory personnel within the University of California-Davis, University of Florida and USDA labs continue to work diligently to analyze residue samples using complex analytical methods. Kudos to the IR-4 Quality Assurance team for ensuring that our data is of acceptable standards. My personal gratitude extends to the members of our Project Management Committee for their continued guidance and support.

Thanks to our friends at the Canadian Pest Management Centre, the Minor Use Foundation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (notably USDA-NIFA and USDA-ARS) for their ongoing partnership. I'd also like to offer a special shout-out to members of the IR-4 Commodity Liaison Committee, whose advocacy efforts encouraged Congress to provide IR-4 with our first funding increase in over a decade, which was sorely needed and appreciated.

Finally, did you know that 2023 marks sixty years of IR-4? This will be an opportune time to celebrate the meaningful impacts of the work we do together. We truly look forward to what's to come.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jerry Baron'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'J' and 'B'.

Jerry Baron  
Executive Director  
The IR-4 Project



# 2022 At A Glance

## FOOD USE PROGRAM

### Successes

- **694** new tolerances for **13** active ingredients established by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) resulting in **750** potential new product uses on food crops

### Regulatory Actions

- **13** tolerance petitions submitted to the EPA covering **101** unique requests for assistance and crop group tolerance updates

### Research

- **347** residue trials contributing to **47** Magnitude of the Residue studies
- **93** efficacy/crop safety trials contributing to **41** Product Performance projects
- **60** field trials contributing to **28** Integrated Solutions projects

## ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE PROGRAM

### Successes

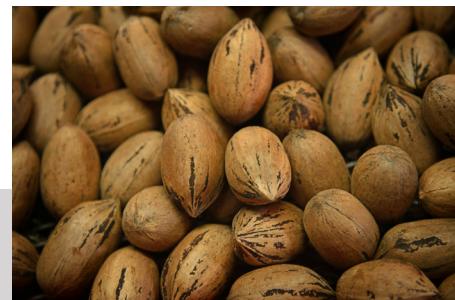
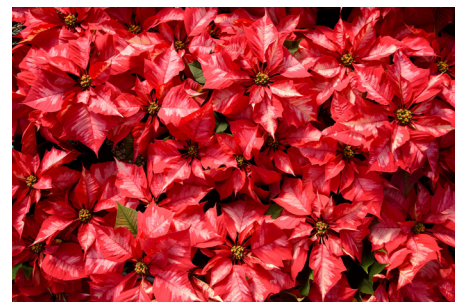
- IR-4 submitted data to expand one EPA registration, supporting **41** additional environmental horticulture crop uses

### Regulatory Actions

- **20** submissions of data reports to companies to support new or update existing registrations

### Research

- **626** field and greenhouse trials (**321** efficacy, **305** crop safety) that contributed to **50** projects



## INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Provided technical leadership in international priority setting workshops, project planning and implementation
- Conducted capacity building on biopesticide regulations and GLP
- Assisted with a new international database
- Promoted harmonization of residue data development and MRLs in Europe and beyond
- Gave technical guidance to an import MRL program promoting the export of US specialty crop commodities to Southeast Asia

Find the full Annual Report at [ir4project.org](https://ir4project.org)





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