



Environmental Horticulture Program

The IR-4 Project's Environmental Horticulture (EH) Program facilitates regulatory approval of sustainable pest management products for ornamental crops. EH research helps green industry growers cultivate a diverse selection of healthy plants for landscapes, homes and gardens—a service to growers, the environment, the economy, and public well-being.

The EH program is divided into two key areas:

REGISTRATION SUPPORT

EH coordinates research to gather data on bio-based and chemical crop protection products. Research priorities are identified every two years based on the needs of growers, Extension personnel and industry professionals. This is the core focus of the EH Program.

Outcomes

- More than 57,000 horticulture crop uses registered using IR-4 data
- More sustainable crop management tools for greenhouse and nursery growers

INVASIVE SPECIES

IR-4 investigates mitigation strategies and helps to increase knowledge of invasive pathogens and pests. For example, the EH Program has explored pest management solutions for boxwoods and other important nursery crops.

Outcomes

- Improved management strategies and diagnostic tools
- Better understanding of pathogen infection and pest development



ECONOMIC IMPACTS*

9,700 total jobs supported (directly and indirectly)

\$725.5 million contributed to the annual GDP

Annual crop losses mitigated valued at \$506 million

**Source: 2022 Economic Impact of the IR-4 Project and Programs, Michigan State University Center for Economic Analysis*



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RESEARCH CYCLE

The Environmental Horticulture Program operates on a biennial research cycle, with the Environmental Horticulture Workshop (priority-setting meeting) occurring every other Fall.



CONNECT WITH THE EH PROGRAM

Do you have an ornamental pest problem (or potential solution) in mind?
Connect with IR-4 to voice your needs and get involved in our research.

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Visit our **Grower Needs** page to submit a
Project Request or Grower Survey.

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