



**Pest management solutions
for specialty crops and
specialty uses**

2025 YEAR-END SUMMARY

*Prepared by IR-4
Headquarters*



Dear colleagues and friends,

As we review IR-4's accomplishments of 2025, it is important to note the unique external challenges that defined this year's operating environment. They included significant funding delays, a lengthy federal government shutdown, hiring freezes, and other disruptions to IR-4's usual processes.

Despite these hurdles, the dedicated IR-4 team continued to develop critical data and support specialty crop growers this year, facilitating new registrations and conducting research guided by stakeholder priorities. For example:

- The Food Crop Program conducted residue trials for effective products to manage mites on greenhouse pepper and tomato, weeds in stone fruit, and *Alternaria* on almonds.
- The Environmental Horticulture Program welcomed a new manager and conducted efficacy work for Nantucket pine tip moth and European corn borer
- Biopesticide submissions were made for bacteriophages of Varroa mites on honeybees

We also hosted the Industry Technology Session, Food Use Workshop, and Environmental Horticulture Workshop. Each time we convene our stakeholders to prioritize projects for the next research cycle, we are inspired by what this community can accomplish through collaboration, compromise, and shared purpose. Our event sponsors are key partners in this success.

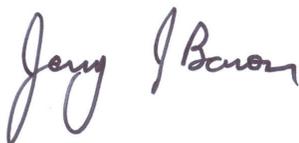
The Friends of IR-4 and Commodity Liaison Committee were invaluable allies this year, advocating for continued federal funding during this volatile season. We appreciate their time and generosity in sharing stories of IR-4's impacts to help lawmakers understand the practical importance of investing in this work.

While external constraints slowed regulatory outcomes, our lab, field, quality assurance, and research management teams served our stakeholders admirably, with remarkable professionalism and resilience. The Project Management Committee also provided sound guidance to help IR-4 navigate the turbulence of 2025.

This marks my final update as Executive Director, as I retire on January 1, 2026. It has been my profound honor to serve alongside my IR-4 colleagues for the past 40 years, helping to advance crop protection for the specialty crop community.

I have complete confidence in the team's strength and readiness to guide IR-4 into its next chapter with an unwavering commitment to our mission. We are fortunate to have such a strong, dependable network of collaborators.

Thank you for your collaboration and support,



Jerry Baron
Executive Director, The IR-4 Project
(through January 1, 2026)



IR-4 2025 Summary

FOOD CROP PROGRAM

Successes

- **3** new tolerances for **3** active ingredients were established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), resulting in **3** potential new product uses on food crops.

Regulatory Actions

- **9** tolerance petitions were submitted to EPA, and **1** non-PRIA submission of two data packages. These covered **44** unique requests for assistance and crop group tolerance updates.
- **2** biopesticide submissions were made, with one addressing bacteriophages of *Varroa* mites of honeybees and the other addressing Huanglongbing (citrus greening).

Research

- **346** residue trials contributing to **37** new Magnitude of the Residue studies
- **149** efficacy/crop safety trials contributing to **79** Product Performance projects
- **15** field trials contributing to **17** Integrated Solutions projects

ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE PROGRAM

Successes

At this time, IR-4 does not have an accurate assessment of new registrations achieved in 2025. This information will be obtained during the second quarter 2026 with responses to inquiries from cooperating registrants.

Regulatory Actions

- **13** research summaries were written and/or updated to support new or update existing registrations; **4,435** field and greenhouse trials contributed to these summaries.

Research

- **602** field and greenhouse trials (**157** efficacy, **445** crop safety) that contributed to **21** projects

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

- **12** EPA inspections, **125** in-life field inspections, and **68** in-life lab inspections completed by QA
- Implemented **4** new National Standard Operating Procedures
- Made progress in reducing the analytical lab backlog
- Hired an Environmental Horticulture Program Manager
- Launched an intranet website to support our team across locations and job functions

The Year End Summary is a synopsis of our Annual Report. Scan to find the full report on ir4project.org.





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This work is supported by project award nos. 2025-79111-45234 and 2022-79111-38469, from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, with substantial cooperation and support from the State Agricultural Experiment Stations, USDA-ARS and USDA-FAS. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and should not be construed to represent any official USDA or U.S. Government determination or policy. In accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.