

# THE IR-4 PROJECT

## ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE PROGRAM



Image by Cristi Palmer

The IR-4 Project's Environmental Horticulture (EHC) Program facilitates regulatory approval of sustainable pest management products for environmental horticulture crops.

EHC research helps green industry growers foster a diverse selection of healthy plants for landscapes, homes, bouquets and urban forests— a service to the environment, to the economy, and to public wellbeing.

**The EHC program is divided into three key areas:**

### REGISTRATION SUPPORT

EHC 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. Registration support is the core focus of the EHC 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. EHC is currently studying options for newly introduced box tree moth.

#### **Outcomes**

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

## POLLINATOR PROTECTION

IR-4 has facilitated research to explore various risks and benefits to pollinators related to horticulture crops and pest management.

### Outcomes

- Improved understanding of plants for pollinators already being sold
- Data on which application methods are low-risk for pollinators

## ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF THE EHC PROGRAM\*

- 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*

## CONNECT WITH THE EHC PROGRAM

**Do you have a green industry 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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grower & extension survey**

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