

SOUTHERN REGION | IR-4 Project



The IR-4 Project has a **60-year track record of impact** in the specialty crop community, with a focus on increasing pest management options for specialty crop growers. According to a 2022 economic analysis by Michigan State University, IR-4 contributes an estimated **\$8.97 billion** to the U.S. GDP.*

By facilitating EPA registration of safe, effective pest management products, IR-4 helps specialty crop growers access the tools they need to produce healthy, abundant harvests— including fruits, vegetables, nuts, herbs, and horticulture crops.



IR-4's Southern Region (SOR), based at the University of Florida, is one of four regional offices. The SOR works with growers, extension agents, industry stakeholders, and land grant university researchers in 14 states and territories. These partnerships help IR-4 understand regional pest management needs in the field, and advocate for safe, effective solutions.

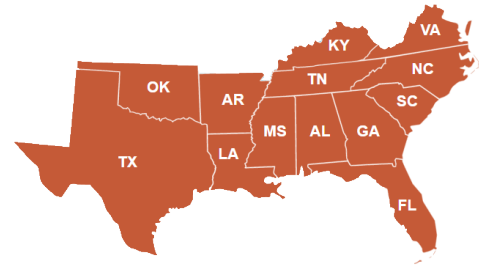
IR-4's federally-funded research evaluates a range of pest management strategies— including reduced-risk chemical products, biopesticides, emerging technologies, and integrated solutions to serve both conventional and organic production systems.

Learn more or submit a project request at ir4project.org.

*Read about Michigan State University's 2022 economic analysis [here](#).

The IR-4 Southern Region Includes:

Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and Puerto Rico



Key Crops of the Southern Region:

Tomato, pepper, cucurbits, brassicas, strawberry, blueberry, orange, avocado, peach, sweetpotato, onion, peanut, pecan, and environmental horticulture crops

Southern Region Highlights:

The SOR team has secured **2,985** registrations to date, with research including:



Driving research to tackle laurel wilt and citrus greening



Securing spider mite controls for strawberries, tomatoes and squash



Improving weed management for cucurbit growers



Managing disease in nursery crop production



Developing integrated solutions for hemp producers

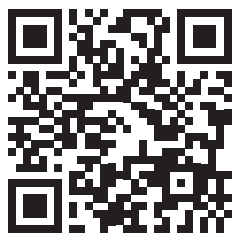


Controlling coffee rust in Hawai'i and Puerto Rico

**Click each image above to explore relevant IR-4 work!*

Have a pest management problem (or solution) in mind?

Scan below to visit the SOR web page, or connect with the SOR team for assistance:



University of Florida
P.O. Box 110720
1642 SW 23rd Dr. Bldg. 685
Gainesville, FL 32611-0720

Regional Field Coordinator
Kristen Searer-Jones (interim)
Phone: 352.294.3979
k.searerjones@ufl.edu

Visit ir4project.org to submit a Project Request or learn more.



This material is based upon work that is supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under award numbers 2022-79111-38469 and 2021-34383-34848 with substantial cooperation and support from the State Agricultural Experiment Stations, USDA-ARS and USDA-FAS. 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.