

# Western Integrated Pest Management Center



Western  
**IPM**  
Center

*Serving the  
American West*

# Who We Are

At the Western Integrated Pest Management Center, we promote smart, safe and sustainable pest management to protect the people, environment and economy of the American West.

**Our vision is a healthier West with fewer pests.**

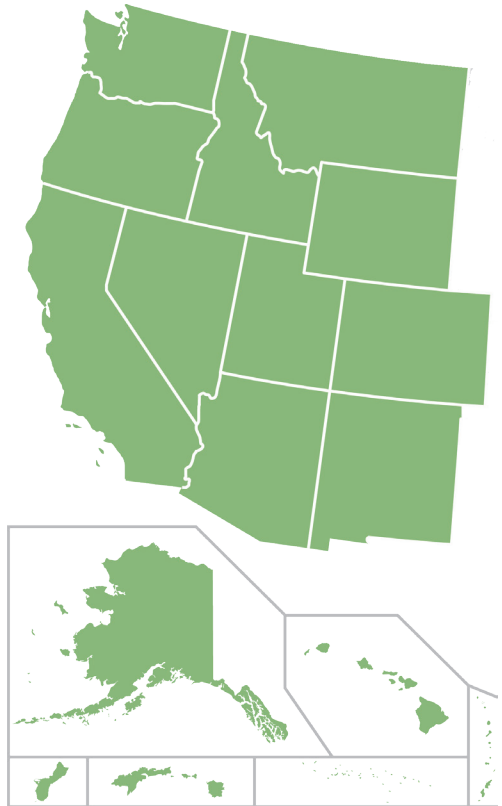
With funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, we support research and outreach to solve pest problems in agriculture, natural areas and communities in 17 Western states and Pacific island territories.

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## Connect with Us

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## Advocate for IPM

- 4 We advocate for integrated pest management in all its many forms and uses. IPM is a process anyone can use to manage pests in a smart, safe and sustainable way.

## Promote Western Priorities

- 5 We bring Western concerns and perspectives to national conversations – educating agencies, lawmakers and regulators about Western needs and priorities.

## Build Partnerships

- 6 We connect state, territory and tribal IPM people and programs and engage other allied projects to coordinate efforts and resources to maximize IPM adoption and impact.

## Create and Evaluate IPM Solutions

- 7 We fund IPM research and extension to create IPM solutions and support evaluation to document IPM's impacts. Our funding has leveraged tens of millions of dollars for additional research.

## Inform and Communicate

- 8 We use many methods to inform and communicate with the IPM community in the West and spotlight IPM successes achieved by state programs, scientists and pest managers.

## Battle Invasive Species

- 9 Invasive insects, diseases, weeds and other species disrupt successful IPM programs and pose a multi-billion-dollar threat to the West. We help combat these invaders.

## Support Specialty Crops

- 10 From chile pepper to hops, small-acreage, high-value specialty crops are part of what makes Western agriculture special. We support research into IPM solutions for all kinds of crops.

## Extend IPM's Benefits

- 11 IPM isn't just for agriculture. We show how IPM can reduce the risks to people in their homes and schools, and be used to control public-health pests like mosquitoes.

# Advocating for IPM

***Integrated pest management isn't one thing. It's an approach to managing pests that works in agriculture and communities, natural lands and schools. We advocate for IPM in all arenas.***

IPM is so effective and adaptable, it's used in vastly different systems. Foresters, ranchers, school administrators, housing managers and growers from small organic farmers to corporate agribusinesses all use IPM to manage pests, reduce pesticide risk and control their costs.

IPM is so ubiquitous, some people don't recognize they're doing it and others don't acknowledge they practice IPM. That's a problem.

At the Western IPM Center, we promote using IPM principles in all pest-management decisions. When an organic grower picks a vegetable variety that ripens before weeds set seed, it's IPM. And it's IPM when a group of large growers coordinate aerial sprays to manage pests on an areawide basis. It's even IPM when park rangers use repellents to keep coyotes from digging in sensitive archaeological sites like the Casa Grande National Monument in Arizona, seen below.

If you look at pests as part of a bigger picture and think through a control strategy to be smart, safe and sustainable, you are practicing IPM.



# Promoting Western Priorities



***The West is vast and diverse and poses unique pest-management challenges. We ensure Western concerns are heard by agencies, lawmakers and regulators.***

The Western IPM Center brings Western problems and perspectives to national conversations so individual states, territories and tribes don't have to go it alone.

We engage a diverse group of stakeholders from around the region to understand their concerns and priorities. We work closely with other regional organizations and state and territory IPM coordinators to stay engaged with their programs, challenges, accomplishments and concerns.

We bring that input to conversations at the federal level – to meetings with the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, in briefings with individual lawmakers and to the National IPM Coordinating Committee.

We also engage with federal regulators by collecting and coordinating comments from growers and others when an agency proposes new regulations. With pesticide-use data and on-the-ground information from growers and pest managers, we deliver hundreds of comments a year to help regulators make better-informed decisions.

Every year we also fund, facilitate and publish new Pest Management Strategic Plans for a variety of Western crops. These document priorities and are a valuable reference federal agencies consider regulations.

# Building Partnerships



***Western states have IPM programs, but pests cross borders. The Western IPM Center helps coordinate efforts and resources regionally to maximize the effectiveness of everyone's efforts.***

Pest problems are shared throughout the West and constantly changing as temperatures rise, invasives appear and native pests reemerge. Solving our common pest problems – or just keeping up with them – is best done when we all share information, resources and strategies.

The Western IPM Center exists to help that happen.

We serve as an information and communication hub linking all the states, territories and tribes in the West. Researchers or extension educators in one state may or may not know their counterparts in other states doing similar work, so we try to connect individuals to the broader network of IPM professionals.

We also link with other agencies and efforts that promote similar goals. For instance, we recently worked with the Western Region IR-4 Program, which helps register pesticides for specialty crops, to make IPM a more important criteria in its priority-setting process.

We collaborate with the Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program, the Western Governors' Association and many other groups working to make the West a safer and healthier place.

## ***Center funding provides support for researchers investigating new tactics for controlling pests. Our grants launch projects and leverage resources, and our signature programs extend knowledge.***

The Western IPM Center's grant program awards a quarter-million dollars annually to support IPM research, outreach and evaluation in the West.

Our grants build IPM knowledge and programs brick-by-brick. Research-grant recipients use our funding to launch new research ideas or answer specific pest questions. And they build on those answers, securing additional funding from the Center or other sources. Extension educators use our funding to spread new knowledge to expand IPM adoption and combat invasive species.

We've directly funded more than \$2.5 million in IPM research and extension, and that funding has leveraged at least \$28 million more.

In addition, we fund ongoing signature programs that dive deeper into specific topics and extend solutions regionally. Examples are our Crop-Pest Loss and Impact Assessment Signature Program, which generated compelling data about pesticide-use reductions from IPM adoption. The Weather-Based Decision Support Tools Signature Program helped create the USPest.org weather and pest-model website, and our Invasive Species Signature Program reacts quickly to new outbreaks in the West.



# Informing and Communicating

*We travel the region to see IPM in action and spotlight successes to a national audience. Our newsletter, website and other publications are valued sources of IPM information.*

One key function the Western IPM Center provides is keeping IPM professionals throughout the vast American West connected and informed.

We do this through our monthly electronic newsletter, which collects and condenses the latest IPM news and pest-management information, including regulatory proposals, available funding and opportunities for students. It has more 1,750 subscribers.

We also maintain an easy-to-navigate website that is a great resource about integrated pest management in the West. It features stories, videos and photos of IPM projects and successes from around the West and highlights Center programs and activities. Our request for proposals is posted there every fall.

Finally, we publish occasional special reports and studies on topics of Western concern. Visit our website at [www.westernipm.org](http://www.westernipm.org) to learn more and subscribe to our newsletter from any page on the site.





# Battling Invasives Species



***Invasive species are a constant threat to the West's multi-billion-dollar agricultural industry and our natural areas. We help build a first line of defense against these invaders.***

From big coconut rhinoceros beetles to microscopic spores, invasive species pose serious threats to agricultural production, natural resources and urban communities across the West. Annual losses from invasives are estimated at \$140 billion or more nationally.

Invasive species also disrupt successful integrated pest management programs and can force growers and other pest managers to reach for broadly toxic pesticides to control outbreaks.

The Western IPM Center works with partners across the region and beyond – including federal, regional, state and local entities – to address invasive insects, animals, plants and diseases and to plan coordinated responses to emerging threats.

We fund research into control strategies and our Invasive Species Signature Program works to generalize response plans for individual invaders into broadly applicable IPM protocols suitable for a wide range of species. We react quickly to new threats, providing funding and support to bring together experts to plan coordinated responses.

# Supporting Specialty Crops



***Western agriculture isn't a few crops grown on millions of acres, it's hundreds of different crops on smaller acreage. We fund research to protect these regionally important specialty crops.***

The West grows big-acreage crops like wheat, but it's not dominated by one or two commodities. Instead, Western agriculture is home to dozens of high-value, small-acreage specialty crops, like pears and potatoes, chile peppers and cane berries, almonds, alfalfa seed, hops and hemp. Some have well-funded industry groups or commodity commissions that can support new pest-management research, but many do not.

That's where the Western IPM Center comes in.

Our project initiation grants are perfect for researchers working with local growers facing new pest challenges, and our recent grants have funded new research in grass seed, pears, macadamia nuts, hemp, hops and rangelands.

In addition, we support specialty crops by publishing Pest Management Strategic Plans that identify current pest issues in a crop or setting and document research priorities. These plans have helped Western researchers leverage millions of dollars in new funding and develop solutions for critical pest problems.

# Extending IPM's Benefits

***IPM isn't just for agriculture. As a process for thinking through pest-management decisions, IPM can be used in any situation to reduce risks to people and the environment.***

At the Western IPM Center, we promote IPM to extend the protections it provides to the West's most vulnerable people and places.

We're a part of a national coalition working to expand IPM adoption in schools because children can be especially sensitive to pests and pesticides. We support a bed bug work group that's developing resources to help people manage infestations in settings ranging from shelters and multi-unit housing to hospitals, schools and public transportation.

We've funded a variety of projects to help Western tribes protect their valuable resources from pests, and recently published a research report showing how integrated pest management is used by mosquito control districts to protect public health.

We even recently supported a program to inspect and certify gravel pits to keep weeds from spreading in Alaska's sensitive wildlife refuges.

IPM can benefit anyone, anywhere. We work to extend its benefits to everyone, everywhere.



