2002 Vegetable Crops Pest Management Practices

Prior to the 2002 crop year, vegetable crop pest management practices data were collected and published separately from the Vegetable Chemical Use Survey. The Pest Management Practices 2002 Summary is based on data compiled from respondents participating in the Vegetable Chemical Use Survey (VCUS). Producers were first asked how many total acres of vegetable crops they grew in 2002, followed by questions regarding the use of specific pest management practices, in a yes/no format. Pests were defined as weeds, insects, and diseases. If the respondent used a specific practice on any vegetable crop, it was assumed that the practice was used on all acres of vegetable crops. For example, if a producer had 500 acres of various vegetable crops, and used field mapping of previous weed problems to assist in making weed management decisions, it was assumed that all 500 acres were mapped.

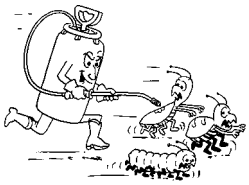
For this report, each question has been categorized into one of four pest management categories: prevention, avoidance, monitoring, and suppression. The actual questions used to collect these data are shown on pages 314-316 of the release.

The data are published in two tables: percent of acres receiving the specific pest management practice, and percent of farms using the specific pest management practice. These percentages are published at the Program States and State levels. For all the crops in this survey, the percentages refer only to farms and vegetable acres.

Highlights: The most widespread pest management practice for prevention reported was removing or plowing down crop residue, used by 72 percent of the vegetable farms on 72 percent of the acres. Also, use of tillage/etc. to manage pests ranked second as a prevention practice with 67 percent of the vegetable farms and 83 percent of the acres.

In terms of avoidance practices, rotating crops was the main one with 73 percent of the vegetable farms reporting it on 82 percent of the acreage. Sixty percent of the farms reported scouting for pests on 83 percent of the acres.

The most used pest suppression practice was to alternate pesticides with over half of the vegetable farms (53 percent) reporting it on 82 percent of the planted vegetable acres.



Pennsylvania: Pest Management Practices - All Vegetables, 2002

Practice	Percent of Acres Receiving Practice	Percent of Farms Utilizing Practice
	Percent of Acres	*Percent of Acres*
Prevention Practices:		
Tillage/etc. to manage pests	95	89
Remove or plow down crop residue	85	81
Clean implements after fieldwork	59	43
Water management practices	51	38
Avoidance Practices:		
Adjust planting/harvesting dates	43	26
Rotate crops to control pests	98	98
Alternate planting locations	86	75
Grow trap crop to control insects	35	16
Monitoring Practices:		
Scouted for pests	56	59
Records kept to track pests	25	13
Field mapping of weed problems	14	15
Soil analysis to detect pests	12	15
Pheromones to monitor pests	7	5
Weather monitoring	63	59
Suppression Practices:		
Scouting used to make decisions	30	38
Biological pesticides	22	24
Beneficial organisms	1	2
Maintain ground cover or physical barriers	44	69
Adjust planting methods	51	37
Alternate pesticides	89	81
Pheromones to disrupt mating	2	1