



New Jersey Information Network for Pesticides & Alternative Strategies

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Summary

The New Jersey Information Network for Pesticides and Alternative Strategies (NJinPAS) is a statewide program designed to develop and distribute information related to pesticides and alternative pest management techniques to the general public, growers, commercial applicators, industry organizations, and government officials. Its objective is to improve the level of knowledge, awareness, and understanding of local, State, regional, and national pest management practices. Information gathered and distributed by NJinPAS is key to informed decision-making by Federal regulators on pest management issues that will impact New Jersey.

Information Development:

Information developed for NJinPAS is targeted at those who will impact or be impacted by changing pest management strategies and regulations. Information needs for the Network are identified by an Advisory Committee representative of a diversity of perspectives and technical expertise. Specifically, this Committee includes representatives from agricultural and horticultural industry (29%); Extension (23%); University researchers (23%); environmental and public interest groups (10%); and State government (16%). There are four main types of information developed: advisories, pesticide use surveys, crop profiles, and pest management strategic plans (PMSPs).

Advisories

Advisories are concise summaries of time-critical pesticide information. Since 2001 NJinPAS has issued 327 advisories. This has included current United States Environmental Protection Agency or New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection pesticide reports (61), regulatory actions (123), and requests for comment; breaking pest management alternatives or pest alerts (29); and other newsworthy items. Advisories have also been used to announce online availability of new resources developed under NJinPAS such as pesticide use surveys, crop profiles, or PMSPs.

Pesticide Use Surveys

New Jersey pesticide survey results are compiled from State pesticide applicator records for regional and local distribution. These results are used in the preparation of crop profiles and PMSPs that will be utilized by government agencies making regulatory decisions. These surveys can be viewed at <http://www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/NJinPAS/pesticidesurveys.htm>.

Crop Profiles

Crop profiles are snapshots of the pest management practices being implemented in the state in a specific crop. They assess current issues and forecast impacts of changes in pesticide regulations on agricultural productivity. So, they will be utilized by government agencies making regulatory decisions. NJinPAS has developed nine crop profiles for New Jersey: alfalfa, apple, asparagus, blueberry, cranberry, field corn, peach, spinach, and squash. These profiles can be viewed at <http://www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/NJinPAS/Crop Profiles.htm>.

Pest Management Strategy Plans

PMSPs are detailed crop-specific blueprints of impending problems in pest management, with special emphasis on targeting research, education, and regulatory needs of the growers.

PMSPs are designed to assess the efficacy of current pest management techniques, as well as forecast the impact of removing various pesticides from the marketplace. PMSPs give growers a forum to let regulators know the pest management issues they face now and in the future. An NJinPAS work group has issued a PMSP for Peaches in New Jersey. It is available @ <http://www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/NJinPAS/PMSP.htm>.

Information Distribution:

NJinPAS announces availability and makes accessible the advisories, pesticide use surveys, crop profiles, and PMSPs it develops using its listserv and website information network.

Email Listservs

To expedite delivery of advisories to the Network, NJinPAS maintains topical email listservs. The NJinPAS program currently maintains nine open enrollment listservs serving more than 180 members: general, vegetables, field and forage crops, fruit, turf/ornamentals/greenhouse/nursery, interiors and institutions, School IPM, forests and Xmas trees, and mosquito. Online enrollment in the listservs is available at <http://www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/NJinPAS/listservs.htm>. A sortable archive of all open postings since the listservs' October 2001 inception can be viewed on the web at http://www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/NJinPAS/listserv_postings.asp.

To facilitate information exchange between NJinPAS work groups, there are also four closed listservs in service: crop profiles, Peach PMSP, Federal/regional partners, and Advisory Committee.

Web Pages

To facilitate accessibility to pesticide and alternative strategy information, NJinPAS created a website to catalog listserv postings, crop profiles, pesticide use surveys, and PMSPs. New Jersey pesticide registrations and exemptions are archived online chronologically after being announced in the listserv, providing the only web-accessible listing of past and current pesticide registrations and exemptions granted for New Jersey. The NJinPAS home page is http://www.pestmanagement.rutgers.edu/NJinPAS/NJinPAS_index.htm. Since 2001 there have been more than 10,726 downloads of the NJinPAS crop profiles, and nearly 4,239 downloads of the pesticide use surveys.

Conclusion:

Since its inception, NJinPAS has facilitated timely distribution of 327 advisories, nine crop profiles, and 24 pesticide use surveys to a network of more than 180 members including regulators and those regulated.

