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Cc: "Jerry J. Baron" <jbaron@AESOP.Rutgers.edu>
Sent: Saturday, March 05, 2005 1:48 PM
Subject: IR-4 Ornamental Horticulture Program Workshop Establishes 2005 Research Priorities, Registrant Advisor, and Advisory Teams

The 'Plant Sciences UPDATE Winter Issue (February 2005)' of the United States Department of Agriculture Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service CSREES Plant Sciences is available online at http://www.csrees.usda.gov/newsroom/newsletters/plantsciencesupdate/psu_0205.pdf. Excerpt below on the IR-4 Ornamental Horticulture Program.

Action: IR-4 and the Ornamental Horticulture Program Workshop Held

The 2004 IR-4 Ornamental Horticulture Workshop, was held on November 9-12, 2004. The 3-day workshop determined which research projects the **IR-4 Ornamental Horticulture Program funds in 2005**. In each session participants had an opportunity to select the **most critical research priorities ("Super A")** for that discipline. The Insect Management session, selected **scale and mealybug** management and **grub control** as their priorities, while the Plant Pathology session, selected **Phytophthora diseases** as the highest priority. The Weed Management session, decided to **expand the perennial list from last year's Super A protocol**, and USDA-ARS has committed to completing the existing projects needing additional trials. The 2005 Super A protocol will be a project screen for quinoxaline phytotoxicity.

This year the IR-4 Project Management Committee voted to dedicate \$200,000 to the 2005 Ornamental Horticulture program, which exhibited their commitment to the program. An additional \$200,000 will be provided as a result of the approval of the increased FY 2005 IR-4 budget. In addition to asking for and receiving dedicated funding, IR-4 sought to make improvements to the Ornamental Horticulture Program that included establishing Registrant Advisor and University Extension/ARS Advisory teams, creating guidelines for an acceptable number of trials for registrant label additions, crafting criteria for establishing priorities and hiring a **new Ornamental Horticulture Manager, Cristi Palmer**, who began working for IR-4 in December.

The **Ornamental Horticulture advisory teams** include members from seven crop protection companies, two ARS researchers and sixteen Land Grant University researchers. These members helped create the guidelines (which were distributed to all 2004 Workshop participants) for an acceptable number of trials. "Despite the challenges and changes, the IR-4 Ornamental Horticulture Program is on the right track. With dedicated financial commitment and stakeholder support the program will grow to its potential in the coming years," stated IR-4 Executive Director, Bob Holm. "We look forward to seeing IR-4 research make significant contributions to the US Ornamental Horticulture industry."

Major funding for IR-4 is provided by Special Research Grants and Hatch Act Funds from USDA-CSREES, in cooperation with the State Agricultural Experiment Stations, and USDA-ARS.

Background: IR-4 has worked with growers, scientists and commodity organizations since 1964 to identify minor crop pest control needs. Although food crop projects are the largest part of the IR-4 work plan, the Ornamentals Program was added in 1977. This program includes nursery and floral crops, forest seedlings, turf grass, Christmas trees, woody ornamentals, and perennials.

Since 1964, the IR-4 Project has over 7,300 food use clearances, 10,600 ornamentals clearances and over 300

biopesticide clearances to its credit. Since 2001, IR-4's petitions comprised 50% of the total number approved by EPA.

The IR-4 Ornamental webpages provide many tools for growers including: an ornamental database, clearance request form, the 'Ornamental Report Card', Data Reporting Form, Ornamental Chemistry, as well as the 2005 Super A draft Protocols established from the Workshop.

Sources: See IR-4 homepage at <http://ir4.rutgers.edu/index.html>; ornamental webpages at <http://ir4.rutgers.edu/ornamentals.html>; and the 'Plant Sciences UPDATE Winter Issue (February 2005) at http://www.csrees.usda.gov/newsroom/newsletters/plantsciencesupdate/psu_0205.pdf.

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