



*Pest management solutions
for specialty crops and
specialty uses*

2024 YEAR-END SUMMARY

Prepared by IR-4 Headquarters



Dear friends,

Reflecting on IR-4's recent accomplishments, 2024 featured an unwavering dedication to our core mission: ensuring growers' toolboxes are well-equipped to grow healthy specialty crops (from food to ornamentals). Our team implemented new ways of working and made progress towards innovative goals, even as the world of crop protection product registration work grew increasingly complex. IR-4 continues to deliver meaningful results and successfully navigate hurdles.

The IR-4 team conducted vital research in 2024, guided by needs voiced by growers. For example:

- The Food Program conducted residue trials for effective products to manage coffee rust, onion thrips in onion, red rice in rice, and herbicides to manage glyphosate-resistant weeds.
- The Environmental Horticulture Program assessed boxwood foliar disease product efficacy.
- The IS Platform evaluated several chemistries for rice root aphids in greenhouse-grown hemp.

In 2024, IR-4 fully implemented electronic field data books (eFDBs) across the organization, following several years of customizing and testing the tailor-made software. We commend our team for coming together to make this possible. Our team also took steps to reboot the Integrated Solutions (IS) and Biopesticide Regulatory Support Platforms; this work will continue in 2025.

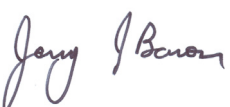
Two new committees were formed in 2024: the Networking Task Force to engage more researchers from minority-serving land-grant institutions and Cooperative Extension in IR-4's work, and the Technology Team to investigate possible tech improvements for the organization. Additionally, IR-4 updated its visual identity and created instructional videos to reach new stakeholders.

Many issues added complexity to our 2024 work, including the Endangered Species Act mitigations, pollinator protection, industry timelines, and global regulatory trends. As an intermediary between stakeholders and the regulatory process, IR-4 is in a unique position. Our team remains highly productive; submitting to the U.S. EPA and getting tools to growers is simply slower and more complicated. Nonetheless, IR-4 remains poised to adapt, thanks to strong relationships with partners and deep internal expertise.

As new tools become necessary and the regulatory process grows more challenging, IR-4's stakeholder-driven work serving specialty crop growers is critical. Our collaborators will continue to rely on the expertise of IR-4 to push solutions forward and help communicate shifting regulatory requirements. Our team proudly serves as advocates, supporters, subject matter experts, and problem-solvers.

We look forward to continuing this purpose-driven work in 2025 and beyond.

Sincerely,



Jerry Baron



Jerry Baron
Executive Director
The IR-4 Project

IR-4 2024 Summary

FOOD CROP PROGRAM

Successes

- **52** new tolerances for **8** active ingredients were established by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) resulting in **1024** potential new product uses on food crops.

Regulatory Actions

- **9** tolerance petitions were submitted to EPA and **1** Final Reports to the registrant for Label Expansion or Conditional Registration. These covered **48** unique requests for assistance and crop group tolerance updates.
- **3** biopesticide submissions were made, with two addressing citrus greening and the third addressing cucumber green mottle mosaic virus.

Research

- **394** residue trials contributing to **53** Magnitude of the Residue studies
- **148** efficacy/crop safety trials contributing to **74** Product Performance projects
- **62** field trials contributing to **35** Integrated Solutions projects

ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE PROGRAM

Successes

- At this time IR-4 does not have an accurate assessment of new registrations achieved in 2024. This information will be obtained during the second quarter 2025 with responses to inquiries from cooperating industry registrants.

Regulatory Actions

- **11** research summaries were written to support new or update existing registrations.

Research

- **671** field and greenhouse trials (**246** efficacy, **429** crop safety) that contributed to **56** projects

WORKFLOW ENHANCEMENTS

- We fully implemented electronic field data books (**eFDBs**) across the organization.
- Our team made significant strides in **reducing the backlog** at our analytical laboratories.
- We created **4 new instructional videos** on the IR-4 research process to aid expanded outreach efforts. Find them at ir4project.org/industry-resources.

The Year End Summary is a synopsis of our Annual Report. Scan to find the full report on ir4project.org.





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