

IPM Decision-Making

There is a 6-step process to decision-making in IPM:

1. Identify the problem or pest
2. Monitor and assess pest numbers and damage
3. Assess the management options (do nothing, cultural, biological, chemical control)
4. Select and apply one or more options to prevent pest problem
5. Measure the success of options employed
6. Record the results

Questions before pest management decisions are made:

- What pests are present, in what numbers and stages of development?
- What conditions exist that may increase or decrease pest problems?
- What natural enemies of the pests, such as parasites, predators, and diseases, are present that may play a key role in control?
- What amount and type of damage is being caused or may soon be caused by pests?
- What is the stage of development, condition, and value of the crop?
- What is the potential for economic injury? How much damage is tolerable? Has the action threshold been reached?
- What pest management options are available, and how do the advantages and disadvantages of each apply to the situation?
- If alternatives are not available, is a pesticide treatment justified for the situation? If so, what is the material of choice?
- If a pesticide is justified, what approaches, if any, should be taken?