

## **Oral presentation (presenter Lanthier Mario)**

Authors

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Title

**Status of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices in outdoor nursery production in Canada**

Abstract

Surveys were conducted across Canada between 2002 and 2004 to assess use of IPM practices by commercial nursery growers. Results indicated widespread knowledge of IPM concepts and regular use of crop monitoring and biologically-based pesticides.

In British Columbia, results were based on voluntary answers from 51 growers producing on 1447 hectares, representing 34.4% of total nursery land production. Thirty-seven growers (74% of the total) answered they practice IPM, defined as “a dynamic decision-making process that emphasizes the use of non-chemical management techniques to prevent or manage pest problems”. Results indicated a high proportion of growers (over 80%) used “a formal process” to detect weeds, insects and diseases in the production areas.

A second survey measured the use of pesticides. Results were based on voluntary answers from 53 growers producing on 1863 hectares, representing 61.2% of total land production. The most common insecticide / miticide in 2002 was dormant oil, accounting for 78.3% of total active ingredient amount. Growers reported using many broad-spectrum pesticides such as organo-phosphates and organo-chlorines. These products can disrupt naturally-occurring insect predators and parasites.

Results across Canada were based on voluntary answers from 107 growers producing on 4856 hectares, representing 21.3% of total nursery land production. Practices rated “very important” to improve current IPM programs were knowledge of beneficial insects (47% of respondents), availability of low-risk products (46%), increased training about IPM (42%), a wider range of chemical products (41%) and knowledge of pest thresholds (33%).

Increased use of IPM practices may result from nursery certification programs. These programs are being introduced across Canada with the general aim to sell plants “relatively free of pest problems”. One requirement is the regular monitoring and diagnosis of pest problems, essential components in IPM programs.