SCOUTING A REAL LIFE EXPERIENCE

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Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Scouting

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Definition

- The use of a broad range of inter-related cultural, chemical, biological and other methods of pest control in combination with routine scouting to produce quality agricultural crops.

Cultural

- Irrigation
- Fertilization
- Light
- Temperature
- Air circulation

Chemical

- Pesticides
- Soaps
- Oils
- Other

Biological

- Predators – Eat them
- Parasites – Use them
- Fungi – PFR
- Bacteria – B.T.

Mechanical

- Squishing
- Squashing
- Burning – Hot water scald of weeds
- Blasting – High pressure removal w/water
- Discarding

- If few plants infected – maybe cheaper to throw away

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Scouting

- The routine monitoring of a crop to aid in early detection of an insect, disease or other problem.

Benefits of Scouting

- More efficient pest management program
- Apply only when needed
- Appropriate chemical for the pests present and its life cycle

More Benefits

- Can detect lack of control due to:
  - 1 – Poor coverage
  - 2 – Possible resistance developed
  - 3 – Mortality time frames differ with each pesticide

Even More Benefits

1 – Allow the use of Biologicals

2 – Detect phytotoxicity

3 – Timely sample submission

4 – True sense of security

5 – Allows you to be a good steward of the environment while promoting a positive image of agriculture to the general public.

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Myths of IPM's

1 – You'll spray less

2 – It's not effective

3 – Uses biological controls only

Realities

1 – You'll need to determine a damage threshold

2 – Must be committed to scouting and accurate record keeping

3 – It is a combination of chemical/biological control tactics

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