Vegetable IPM Resource Database. At our first vegetable IPM working group meeting the need for better coordination and access to IPM resources for agricultural professionals and growers was identified (http://www.nepmc.org/work_vegeother.cfm). Most IPM resources have been developed at the state level or within part of the region (New England or Mid-Atlantic, for instance) and are often not known and used in other parts of the region. Yet, they are likely to be highly relevant and useful to growers in other states. One of our first objectives, therefore, was to centralize vegetable IPM information by making it available through the Northeastern IPM Center website. With funding from the Center ("Consolidation of Integrated Crop Management Information for Vegetables," 2003-2004), Craig Hollingsworth from University of Massachusetts Amherst was hired for the project. He worked closely with Center staff to design the structure of the database, which can be searched by type of information, by crop, by state, or by pest. Types of information on the website include Guides, Alert/Advisories, IPM Element/Protocol/Guidelines, Field Guides, Newsletters, Fact Sheets, Resource Indexes, IPM Curricula, and Videos (See Attachment D). Search results lead to website sources or to indexes of published materials available in print or other media. This database is designed to incorporate information on any commodity or type of IPM system, from specific crops to school and community IPM.

The vegetable resource database, with >1100 entries from thirteen states, is now incorporated and posted on the Center website as part of the Center database (http://www.nepmc.org/vege_all.cfm; see also Attachment D). This is already one of the most heavily used areas of the Center Website (Thomas Bunnell, UMass Extension, personal communication). As more and more farmers use the Worldwide Web to seek out information, this selected, high quality database will help them to find information that is research-based, derived from a public source, appropriate for our bioregion and farming systems. It will also lead them to time-sensitive information such as pest alerts, disease forecasts, and newsletters.

Further work is needed to make this database complete, highly functional and successful. To be an effective tool for growers, it needs to run smoothly, and be durable and well maintained. A poorly 'tuned-up' database can be more frustrating and more detrimental to enhancing use of IPM than none at all. Specifically, Vegetable IPM specialists in each state should review the entries for their state to ensure that nothing important is left out and that all information is current; links need to be reviewed to be sure all are live; a network of state contributors and a system for regular updates should be established; and the capacity to search for specific pests of each crop, and access to good pest identification information need to be further developed. This database improvement and development was identified as a priority in the Vegetable IWG's 2003 meeting (Attachment C).

Once we are confident that the database is complete and verified, growers and agricultural professionals need to know about it. A regional education and marketing effort is necessary to put this tool effectively into the hands of those who can benefit from it. Taking these steps to complete this project - which we consider to be a type of IPM Publication - is Objective 2 of this proposal.

Objective 2. Complete, maintain and promote vegetable crop and pest management resource database (type: regional publications, IWG priority issues)

1. **Check Content Accuracy**. We will identify one or two primary contacts in each state in the region who are familiar with the vegetable IPM resources that have been developed in that state. We will work with those individuals to review the current resources, add any that are missing, and update information that is outdated. Changes will be sent to the Center for input into the database.
2. **Create system for website maintenance**. We will work with the Center to develop a system for updating the database on a regular basis, and explore the feasibility of inputting data from off site for approved individuals. Center website managers will scan for broken links or other problems.
3. **Improve search features of database**. We will work with the Center to improve design features of the site to make searches more effective. We will also work to improve search capability for individual pests and links with pest identification.
4. **Link to regional management guides**. We will collaborate with designers of the *New England Vegetable Management Guide* website (www.nevegetable.org) and other regional guides to develop good linkages to and from the website.

Market the website. Once we are confident that the database is fully operational, we will initiate marketing efforts to inform growers of this resource, possibly to include flyers or bookmarks for dissemination at vegetable conferences in winter 2005-2006; press releases for state newsletters; and articles in the Center newsletter.

I. Evaluation Plans.

Objective 2: Success will be measured by visible improvements in quality and workings of the interactive resource database, which will be in place by January 2006. By the end of winter 2006, following marketing and promotion, use of the site should be measurably increasing. Feedback mechanisms on the site will provide information, positive or negative, on user response. As part of the work on the site we will receive feedback from vegetable specialists in the region regarding usefulness of the database.