

Preliminary Meeting for Planning a PMSP Workshop in Ornamentals
Grant Proposal
Mini-Grant

A survey conducted in 2002 revealed the Green Industry in Delaware employs over 6,000 people and the economic output impact expressed in 2004 dollars was 448 million. The sale of trees and tree care services in Delaware had output impacts of \$90 million and employed about 1,000 people (Hall et al. 2006. The economic impact of the Green Industry in the United States. HortTech 16 (2):345-353). Thus, the Delaware Advisory Committee has identified the ornamental industry and pest management in the landscape as an important issue for the next pest management strategic plan (PMSP) workshop. The diversity of businesses within the industry confounds efforts to develop an encompassing pest management strategy for ornamentals.

The input of different organizations, agencies, and research groups is important to the development of the ornamentals PMSP. Dr. Brian Kunkel, UD Ornamentals IPM Specialist, proposes to organize a meeting between these groups to determine which area of ornamentals in the mid-Atlantic would benefit the most from a pest management plan. This meeting would provide a forum to discuss recent developments in pest management techniques and obtain information regarding current issues to various businesses. Data from a survey conducted by Dr. Kunkel will be used to direct some of the discussions. Invited participants would be from Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and New Jersey.

Possible participants at the meeting will include the region's state departments of agriculture, the Penn-Del research group, Greenhouse and Ornamental IPM (GO IPM) commodity group, county agents, landscape associations, and the EPA. The Penn-Del IPM research group was organized to provide information to individuals working with ornamentals in southeastern Pennsylvania and Delaware. This group includes the University of Delaware and Penn State Cooperative Extension, businesses and organizations associated with ornamentals. The GO IPM working group provided research- and extension-oriented priorities online in 2002. Information regarding chemical control of ornamental pests will be obtained from meeting participants and supplemented with information from IR-4. These groups, along with state and federal regulatory agencies, are necessary participants for a successful plan. The meeting will be scheduled for the fall after the current growing season, so information from the year's experiences is still recent.

The primary goal of the meeting is to examine the ornamental industry and choose a section to develop a pest management strategic plan. Another impact would be writing of up-to-date fact sheets for prominent pests in ornamentals. The meeting also would provide opportunities to possibly develop collaborations between organizations.