

## **A060 AGSC**

### **Does training source affect the adoption of best management practices of Integrated Pest Management in specialty crops? Findings from Tennessee.**

#### **Abstract**

Insect pest damage is one of the most critical problems growers face in specialty crop production. To combat pests, growers use various management practices, like physical, cultural, biological, and chemical, or combinations of these methods. Integrated pest management (IPM) is an environmentally sustainable practice that combines all possible pest management techniques. However, farmers may have limited knowledge, access to information, and training or outreach learning to understand the IPM and/or biological control practices. Qualified formal training in IPM improves the growers' knowledge and adaptation of IPM. We designed a comprehensive survey to understand multiple aspects of adopting IPM practices among specialty crop growers in Tennessee. Using 289 responses from a primary survey in 2019, we examined the growers' knowledge on IPM, formal training and sources, and the adoption of best management practices in IPM.