Growers' Knowledge and Perception of Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

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IPM
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Abstract

- We assessed the knowledge, perception, and experience of specialty crop growers regarding the adoption and use of integrated pest management (IPM) through an electronic survey.
- Results show that >50% of sampled growers had average or below-average knowledge on IPM.

Introduction

- Integrated pest management (IPM) is an environmentally sustainable arthropod pest management practice.
- However, growers may have limited knowledge and understanding of IPM.
- Our objective was to conduct a state-wide survey in Tennessee to assess the specialty crop growers' knowledge and experience on 1) Using and adopting IPM and 2) Identifying arthropod pests and their natural enemies in crop fields.

Materials and Methods

- We designed a comprehensive questionnaire and administered an electronic survey using Qualtrics.
- We used the State of Tennessee's existing Cooperative Extension Programs to distribute the survey to growers and collect responses.
- We received complete survey responses from 317 sampled growers.
- We present results using summary and comparative statistics.

Results

Figure 1

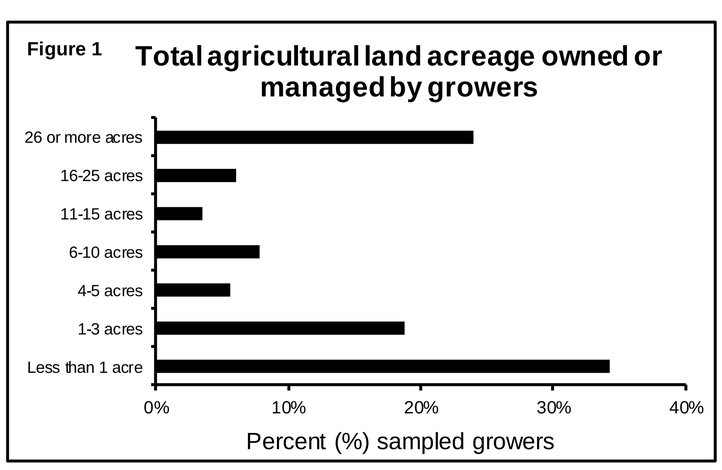


Figure 2

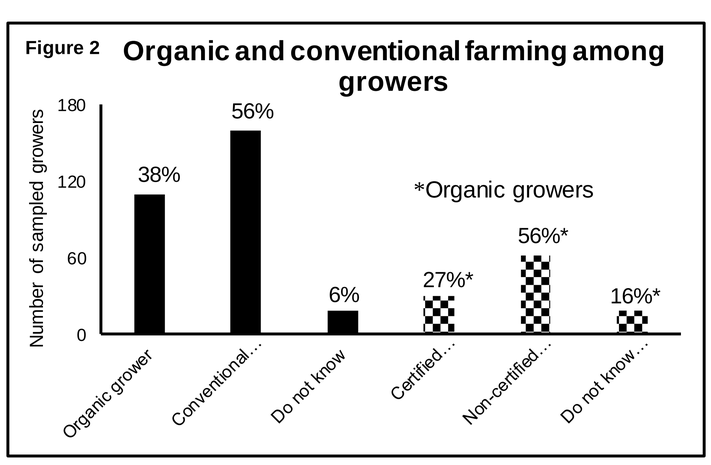


Figure 3

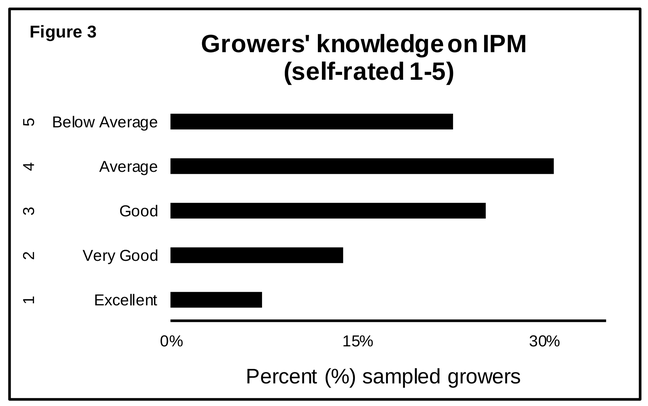


Figure 4

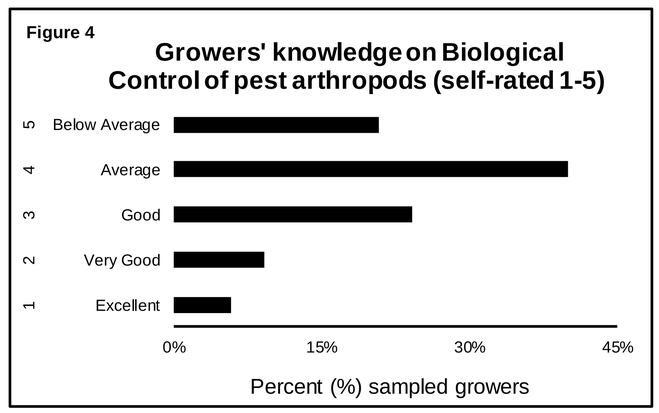


Figure 5

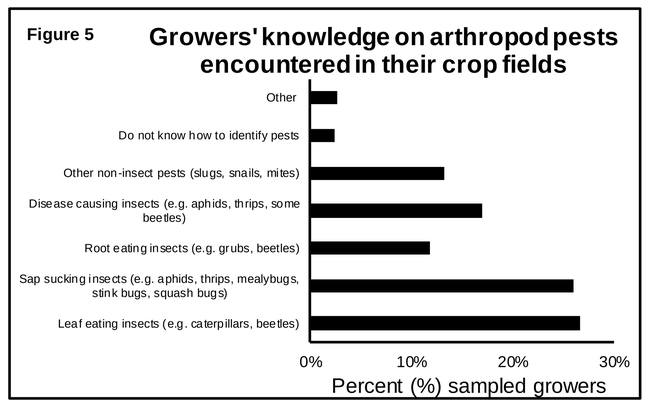


Figure 6

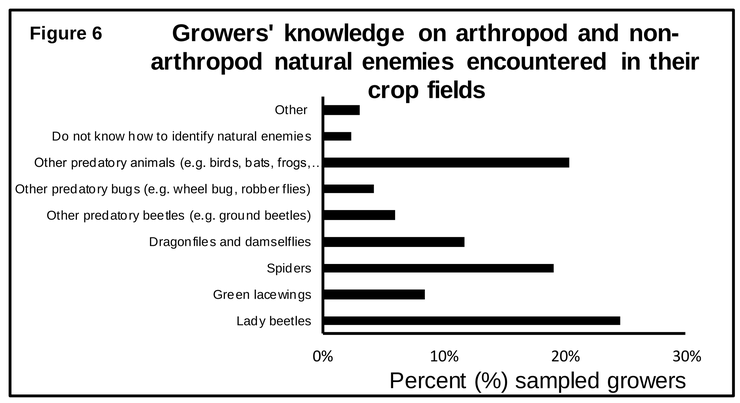


Figure7

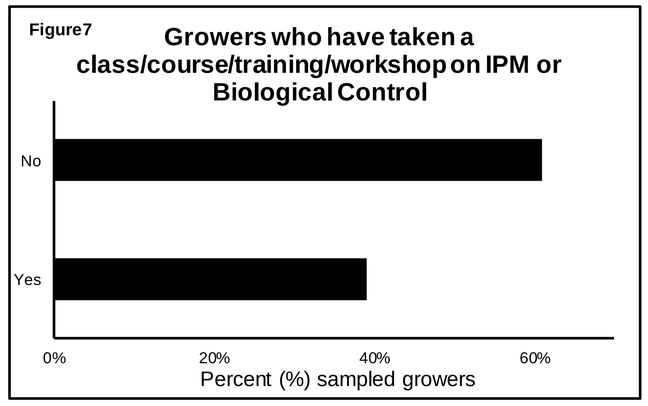
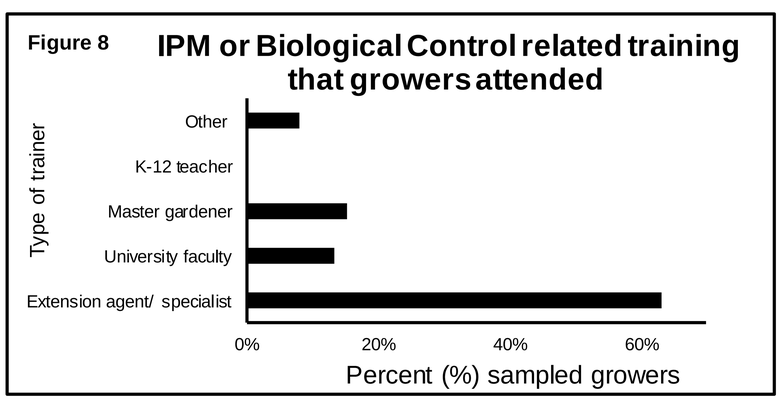


Figure 8



Results and Discussion

- We found that 54 - 61 % of our sampled growers had average or below-average knowledge of IPM and Biological Control, respectively.
- The results also show that only 39% of the sampled growers have taken some training related to IPM, and 63% of them trained through Extension Agents or Specialists.
- Our study highlights the scope and importance of Cooperative Extension Programs for growers to adopt IPM in their cropping systems.

Acknowledgment

- Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Tennessee State University
- Tennessee Cooperative Extension Program
- https://www.picktnproducts.org

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