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HortiCountry

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program is reduced inputs such as sprays and fertilizers. This reduction in inputs can result in substantial savings to you, the farmer, as well as the reducing the environmental impact of your operation.

IPM practices are not the same as organic production methods although there are many similarities. Chemical sprays are still components of some IPM control programs. However, using IPM means first waiting until the target pest population builds up to a damaging level before applying the spray.

Selecting a spray that will control the target pest while preserving some of its natural predators is also an IPM technique. Something as easy a selecting a disease- or insect-resistant variety is also a form of IPM since production of that crop will require reduced chemical inputs in the form of sprays.

Crop rotations are another form of IPM since they can be used to break the cycle of many diseases and insects on crop plants.

I suspect that many of you are already practicing some form of IPM without actually being aware of it. You probably started that practice to save money on sprays which is a benefit of IPM.

There are several things that you need to keep in mind when setting up or evaluating an IPM program. First — an effective IPM program suppresses excessive pests rather than eradicating the entire pest population. This enables you to use a variety of methods to limit weed, insect, and disease pests to negligible levels.

An effective IPM program also takes a site's ecological and environmental components into account. This includes the location of wells and natural water features like streams and ponds.

And finally, an effective IPM program takes time to develop and extra care to plan, implement, and monitor. One of the difficulties I see with IPM is that there usually isn't always a set solution to a problem. What works on one farm may not work on another nearby operation. However, there are many success stories with IPM methods and I hope you will investigate the possibility of using IPM on your farm in the next growing season.

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The Same Unit Can Be Used With One Spear For Center Of Bale Or Two Spears For Under Bale.

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Golden Leaf Tobacco Co. will be receiving tobacco this year at our old location in Kirkwood (Kirkwood Hay Auction) on Tues. and Thurs. from 8-4 and at a new location on Rt. 23
EARLAND INDUSTRIAL PARK, 130 Earland Dr., Building 3, behind J.B. Zimmerman Hardware, Mon-Fri., 8-4 until the end of the season.
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