

Greenhouse Growers

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input." Hayes said. "With IPM, (growers use) no more pesticide than is absolutely necessary."

Tom Gawlas, manager at Quality Greenhouses, said that he has been involved in IPM for 12 years and it has lowered the costs of operation considerably.

As one of the first greenhouse operators in the state to use biological controls, Gawlas said that IPM methods have improved over the last decade. These include the development of safer, more target-specific pesticides, as well as better use of biological controls.

A key part of the IPM program is constant attentiveness to insect populations. "Sticky cards" that contain attractants to target pests are hung at various locations in the greenhouse.

The number of insects trapped on the card over a specific period of time determine whether or not control measures need to be taken.

Gawlas said that IPM helps growers develop a philosophy for insect control.

"IPM is a decision process," he said.

Quality Greenhouses uses a combination of pesticides and biological controls to help grow about 70,000 chrysanthemums,

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Cathy Thomas, state IPM specialist, and Tom Gawlas of Quality Greenhouses in Camp Hill examine a "sticky card" used to monitor fungus gnat infestations in a chrysanthemum greenhouse.

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