

**Western Integrated Pest Management Center
Addressing Critical Issues in IPM
Progress Report**

Potato IPM Scouting Manual (A Pocket Guide in English and Spanish)

Objectives and Procedures:

1. To develop a Potato IPM Scouting Manual that will fill unmet pest management needs in Pacific Northwest potato production.
 - a) *Outline a scouting plan for potatoes*

Using existing potato IPM publications (Pacific Northwest Potato Production Pest Management Strategic Plan, *Potato Production Systems* book published by University of Idaho), and interviews with University specialists, we produced a preliminary outline for the Potato IPM Scouting Manual, which includes a “wish list” of pests (including insects, diseases, weeds and nematodes) we would like to include. Each pest is identified according to its type (e.g., Major, Secondary, Occasional, New or Potential), since printing costs may dictate how many “Occasional” pests we will be able to include. Also included in the outline are details about when during the crop cycle (pre-, during-, or post-flowering) the pest occurs, when scouting activities should occur, what part of the field and plant need to be scouted, and when damage is present. The information in the pest outlines helped determine which photos will be important to include in the Manual.
 - b) *Send complete information to advisors at the University of Idaho (UI), Oregon State University (OSU) and Washington State University (WSU) for review.*

As stated above, UI researchers were interviewed and consulted when preparing the preliminary outline. It is not yet been sent to advisors at OSU or WSU.
 - c) *Photo Inventory*

We compiled a preliminary photo inventory for all of the pests we intend to include in the Manual. This inventory outlines which photos are needed in order to correctly identify each pest and its damage, where existing photos can be found (e.g., specific extension publications and webpages), and which photos will need to be acquired or taken. We are in the process of obtaining permission to use the existing photos and we are also double checking to make sure all photos are print quality (as opposed to just webpage or email quality).
 - d) *Co-PI’s, Project Coordinator and Advisors will meet in Boise to compile and compare information between the three states.*

This has not yet been done.
2. To design and publish the Potato IPM Scouting Manual as a pocket guide in English and Spanish.
 - a) *Meet with the Graphic Designer.*

The group presented the sample Manual to Diane Noel, editor at the Educational Communications Department of the UI’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. She works directly with the Graphic Designers in the department for the publications she edits. Her feedback generated changes in the sample Manual and helped prepare the group for a more productive meeting with a Graphic Designer. The group has not yet met with the Graphic Designer.

- b) *Designer will distill information into a simple format that has very little text.*
This has not yet been done.
 - c) *Translate into Spanish*
This has not yet been done.
 - d) *Pilot Workshops*
A pilot workshop was conducted at the 2005 University of Idaho Potato Conference in Pocatello, Idaho (Funding provided for by a 2004--2005 University of Idaho Extension Critical Issues Grant). The attendees received an introduction to the principles of Integrated Pest Management, with a focus on the mechanics and benefits of pest scouting. Also presented was biological information about selected economically damaging potato diseases, with an emphasis on how to scout for them, and how to determine when they have exceeded the economic threshold. During the hands-on portion of the workshop, the attendees were introduced to the sample Manual, which included the pests that were discussed during the initial presentation. Information outlined in the sample Manual included: a detailed scouting plan, a photograph identifying each pest and the damage it causes, graphics depicting where to scout for each specific pest, its economic threshold, and a place to record data (e.g., date, field sampled, pests found, location of diseases in the field). The attendees were then taken into a demonstration area, where plants, some of which were infected with the diseases in the sample Manual, were arranged in rows to represent a potato field. The attendees were broken into groups, and were asked to scout the "potato field" for the diseases in their sample Manual, and record their data. The data recorded by the participants were collected and used to evaluate the utility and ease of use of the Manual. Also collected were comments from the participants about how to improve the Manual. After this activity, it became clear that certain aspects of the Manual were confusing to the user, whereas other details were helpful. This input helped us make decisions about the presentation and organization of the manual (e.g., the record keeping sheets were simplified, and information on economic thresholds was relegated to an appendix). Subsequent pilot workshops were conducted in Blackfoot, Grace and American Falls, Idaho in June of 2005 using the same presentation format, but utilizing the revised sample Manuals.
 - e) *Co-PI's, Project Coordinator and Advisors will meet in Boise to revise the Manual before printing.*
This has not yet been done.
 - f) *2,000 copies of the same manual will be printed as a PNW publication*
This has not yet been done.
 - g) *Publish the Manual on the Extensión en Español website*
This has not yet been done.
3. To provide training on the use of the manual to Extension personnel, growers and State Lead Agencies who will subsequently train farm laborers.
- a) *Develop a curriculum for "Train the Trainer" workshops.*
This has not yet been done.
 - b) *"Train the Trainer" workshops conducted in Idaho, Oregon and Washington.*
This has not yet been done
 - c) *Organize statewide training of farm laborers in English and Spanish.*
This has not yet been done.