

Title: Establishment of a Comprehensive Small Fruits Pest Management Guide for the Southeast

Principal Investigator(s):

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Objectives: Establishment of a pest management guide for small fruits which are managed in the Southeast.

Justification: Currently, each southeastern state establishes its own pest management guide for small fruits on a yearly basis. While this accomplishes the mission, it results in vast duplication of effort, and it does not capitalize on the expertise of all parties involved. Both apple and peach IPM efforts have been regionalized, and the southeastern region produces comprehensive guides for these commodities – guides which are arguably much better than previous, individual state efforts. While this grant proposal does not fall in the traditional category of research, it does address a need for regional IPM efforts. While a lone PI is listed, multiple participants in the region have agreed that this is a critical need, and it should be addressed.

Progress: Limited progress has been made in 2003. Key extension and research personnel have been contacted relative to their willingness to move forward with this effort, and the consensus is that that needs to be accomplished, and there is a willingness to help by those member states in the consortium. The initial effort will center around a comprehensive IPM guide; this is the first step in the process.

Plans for 2004:

March: Establish a conference meeting to discuss specific needs and design issues relative to this guide.
April – August: Develop content; additional meetings as needed through conference calls.
September – November: Edits and additional conference call meetings as needed.
December: Web posting of first installment of guide. Conference call to discuss plans for the future and continued development as a more comprehensive guide (beyond IPM).

Request for Extension of Budget for 2004:

Operating Expenses (general supplies; mailings, etc.)	\$250
<u>Other (meeting rooms, phone conferences, etc.)</u>	<u>\$4750</u>
Total	\$5000

Other Potential Funding Sources: (none available at this time)