

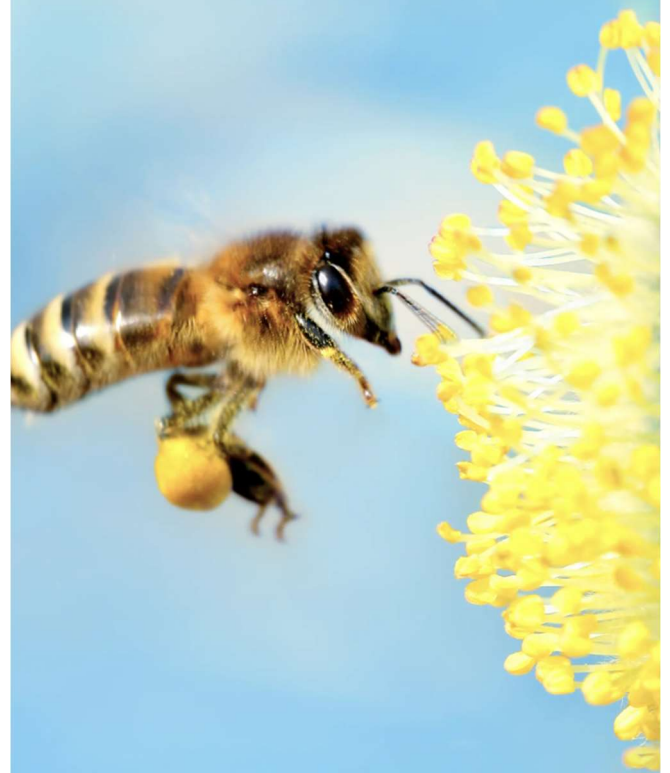


PrimusGFS v3.2

Module 9 - IPM Practices

Questions and Expectations 2023

Module 9 - IPM Practices is an optional add-on to the PrimusGFS certification for Farm and Indoor Agriculture operations. It is designed to verify the implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices and communicate efforts to any interested customers. The questions in Module 9 are independent from the food safety criteria within PrimusGFS and does not influence the overall audit score; instead, it serves to enhance the comprehensiveness of the audit.



PrimusGFS Module 9 – IPM Practices

Section	Q #	Question	Expectation
IPM Practices	9.01.01	Does the operation have a documented integrated pest management (IPM) plan?	The operation should have a documented IPM plan in place that establishes best practices and processes to identify and manage key pests and pest damage while minimizing risks to the environment. The plan should include a description of the practices used to identify and manage key pests, prevent disease buildup, and delay the onset of pesticide resistance; how a qualified person identifies and monitors relevant key pests, diseases and weeds, and uses action thresholds or economic thresholds to avoid the routine application of pesticides, prioritize the use lower risk products, and to justify these decisions to management. The plan should also include science-based, industry-based best management practices to protect pollinators and attract beneficial insects such as managing apiaries, planting/maintaining forage areas around fields, etc.
IPM Practices	9.01.02	Does the operation have evidence of implementation of IPM practices?	The operation should have evidence that a proactively managed IPM plan is in place. There should be records of regular crop inspections by a qualified person who understands the identification, biology, and monitoring methods for relevant pests, diseases and weeds. Monitoring results are used in conjunction with economic or action thresholds to inform management decisions and avoid the routine application of pesticides. There should be documented evidence of non-chemical pest prevention and control methods used (cultural, mechanical, physical or biological) e.g., crop rotation, the use of pest-resistant varieties, physical removal, physical barriers, mechanical devices, etc. (e.g., sticky traps, pheromone traps, rodent traps, nets, screens, etc.). The operation should implement and have evidence of practices to delay the development of pest resistance to pesticides (untreated buffers/refuges, alternating pesticides with different modes of action [MOA], crop rotations, etc.). Current licenses/certifications for in-house or contracted pest control advisers (PCAs), certified crop advisers (CCAs), certified professional agronomists (CPAGs) or other individuals involved in the implementation of the IPM plan can be reviewed as a method of qualification review. Evidence regarding the qualifications of staff involved in pest scouting and/or pesticide applications may also be addressed in question 2.10.08 or 3.11.08.
IPM Practices	9.01.02a	Does the operation monitor the effectiveness of non-chemical control methods used?	The operation should monitor the effectiveness of implemented non-chemical control methods and there should be information for how the implemented non-chemical control methods manage pests
IPM Practices	9.01.03	Does the operation assess pesticide risk?	The operation should assess pesticide risk to humans, pollinators, and other non-target species. Decisions should be made to prioritize the use of lower risk products when possible or decisions in general leading to a reduced reliance on pesticides.
IPM Practices	9.01.03a	Are pesticide applications tied to a documented justification?	The operation should have documented justification for any pesticide application. Justifications may include information related to pest populations exceeding action thresholds, favorable conditions to disease, etc.