The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program at SOREC has two main components: research and education. Our goal is to maintain a tight link between Research and Extension – with research conducted at the Research Center and on local farms – so growers can implement new approaches and new technology in as timely a manner as possible. The program’s primary objective is to develop information that will be of direct benefit to growers in the region and assist them in maintaining profitability.

**Demonstration Orchards.** A two-year grant from the American Farmland Trust to foster continued implementation of IPM methods in local pear orchards was completed. The goal of this grant was to reduce the use of pesticides while maintaining high fruit quality. Working in grower orchards, we were able to demonstrate that the use of mating disruption for control of codling moth (the key pest in pome fruit) can result in reduced need for highly toxic organophosphate insecticides. These techniques have been fully implemented on almost 50% of the local acreage. When adopted, an IPM program results in up to 74% reduction in the use of synthetic pesticides and over $200-per-acre cost savings to area orchardists.

**IPM for Orchards and Vineyards.** Research in pest management included tests with highly selective controls for codling moth, including an insect virus that was evaluated both at the Research Center and in local organic orchards. In the past two years the amount of orchard acreage that is being managed organically has doubled. Many of the new pest management tactics being evaluated at the Research Center can be used in both organic and conventionally managed orchards. New insect controls are regularly tested to determine both their effectiveness on pests and their disruption of natural biocontrol agents. Research with our new tower-type sprayer will continue to determine whether off-target spray drift can be minimized while enhancing spray deposition within the orchard. New pest monitoring tools, which were developed at the Research Center in collaborative research with the USDA, have been used extensively by growers throughout the Pacific Northwest. In 2007, grants from industry and the USDA provided approximately $100,000 to support this research and the demonstration orchards.

**Grower Education.** Information on orchard pest management is available via the Pest Alert web page, the Insect Management Handbook, annual research updates and field days, and bi-weekly meetings throughout the growing season. Information on the safe and proper use of pesticides is delivered annually during a two-day conference, with additional core safety training in both English and Spanish. For winegrape growers, a problem-solving tour is conducted in the summer.