



WHO USES IPHIS?

In 2013, IPHIS users entered survey records for 33 pest/commodity programs.

Programs with over 10,000 records entered:

1. Citrus Health (665,225)
2. European Grape Vine Moth (69,107)
3. Emerald Ash Borer (77,476)
4. Gypsy Moth (66,018)
5. Grass Hopper/ Mormon Cricket (33,201)
6. CAPS (22,142)
7. Bark Beetle (12,568)

Summaries were run on Dec.

4. Only 2013 survey activity records were counted.

December 2013

Upcoming Release

On Dec. 9, the IPHIS development team released IPHIS version 4.0 to the User Acceptance Testing (UAT) site. All features and functions are being tested for 4-6 weeks by the developers and a team of volunteers (current IPHIS users). The development team will fix bugs as testers identify them. Once debugged, the developers will release IPHIS 4.0 to the production (live) site. We are shooting for a mid- to late-January release.

IPHIS 4.0 features an all new upload process that lessens the 'wait' time for users. The new upload process allows users to upload multiple spreadsheets in sequence or upload a spreadsheet and log off; they will not have to wait for the records to validate and process. Users can log back into the system at their convenience to correct errors and process records to the database. Other improvements included in the new release are:

- We removed the 400 record/spreadsheet limit. During development testing, a 10,000 record file uploaded to the system in less than 5 min.
- We added an option for entering the field technician's name to uploaded survey records.

- We created a new 'Staging Area' – a page where users can correct errors identified during the validation process. Records are displayed in a spreadsheet like format. Errors are highlighted so users can quickly move from one highlighted cell to the next, correct errors, and instantly see if the correction meets validation rules.

- The system will be more forgiving of spreadsheet style changes. Files won't be rejected because of resized columns, cell background colors, or incorrectly formatted activity dates.
- Supervisors will be able to edit and process files that were uploaded by technicians in the field.

ArcGIS Upgrade

The ArcGIS 10.2 upgrade to the production site was delayed due to problems with UAT eAuth access. The developers upgraded the mapping software on the UAT site in October, but we couldn't access the site to test it until mid-December. The upgrade is being tested in parallel with the 4.0 release. The upgrade will restore the Mapping module so users can filter and display survey, sample, and regulatory data on the map. It will also correct bugs experienced by users who want to create locations by map, update coordinates, or save an address that can't be standardized.

New Release Testers

In late October, Denise Pulsone sent an email request for volunteers to test the new IPHIS releases. We were amazed by the response. Over 50 IPHIS users from PPQ and Cooperator offices offered to help. The overwhelming response will improve our chances of finding all or nearly all bugs before we make changes to the production site. We also will be able to run some performance tests to identify potential problem areas, such as testing for bottlenecks when upload volume is high. Testing is a vital step in the release process and we couldn't do it without the help of volunteers.

IPHIS Training

The upload process is changing and we want all users to know how to use the new features. We will begin working on job aids and training materials as soon as possible. Training dates and details will be announced in early January. We will offer demos and training events before the release so year-round and winter survey technicians can make a seamless transition to the new system. **Please watch for email announcements or check the IPHIS System Announcements for upcoming training events.** We are working with the PDC to develop more effective training strategies and to improve our design, development, and delivery of training materials.