

# Towards an IPM Metric for Irish Horticulture



**Jennifer Byrne (University of Warwick/Teagasc)**  
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# Introduction to the Research

## What?

- To assess how IPM is being used as a tool to manage pest, weed, disease issues on Irish horticultural units

## Why?

- To improve the uptake of IPM on Irish farms

## How?

- Phase 1: qualitative audit of IPM in Irish food horticulture
- Phase 2: development of a quantitative measurement tool

# Aims and Objectives

## Aims:

- to capture quantitative data on current IPM practices in Irish food horticulture, and
- to test an existing metric for IPM Irish and UK arable crops (Creissen *et al.*, 2019)

## Objectives:

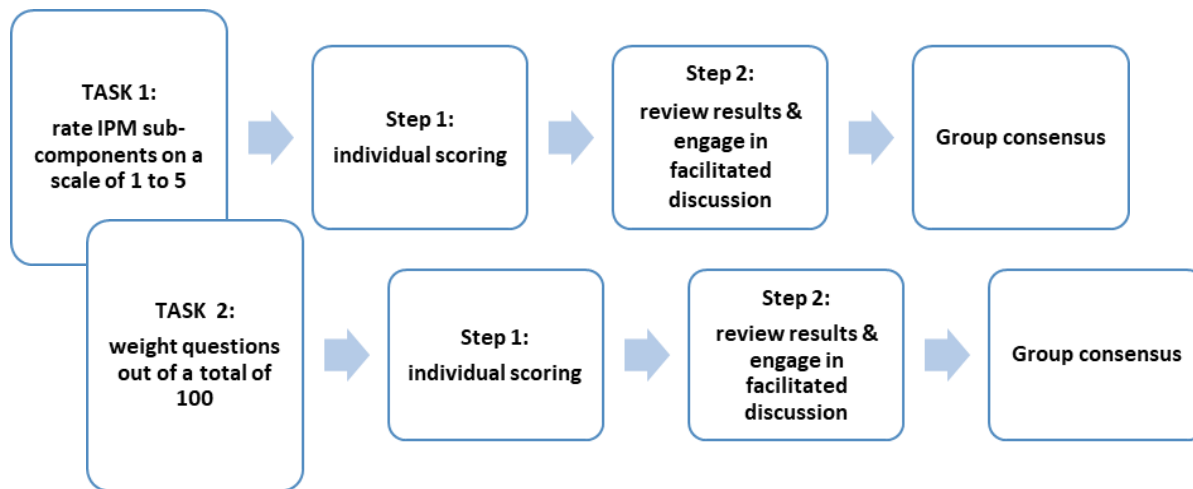
- (Re)design and disseminate a survey
- Use expert opinion to create a weighting system
- Apply the resulting metric to the data



# The group consensus approach

Expert occupation	Field crops	Protected crops
Specialist advisor	3	2
Research agronomist	2	2
Merchant	1	3
Grower	3	4
Industry representative		1
<b>Total</b>	<b>9 participants</b>	<b>12 participants</b>

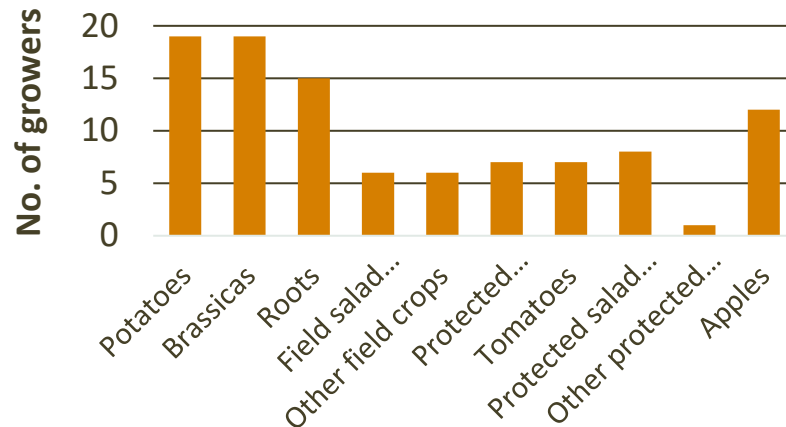
- Field crop experts: 8 questions, 86 sub-components
- Protected crop experts: 7 questions, dependent



# Outcomes

1. 100 survey responses
  - 66 conventional/34 organic
  - 77 field crops/23 protected crops

Predominant crop types

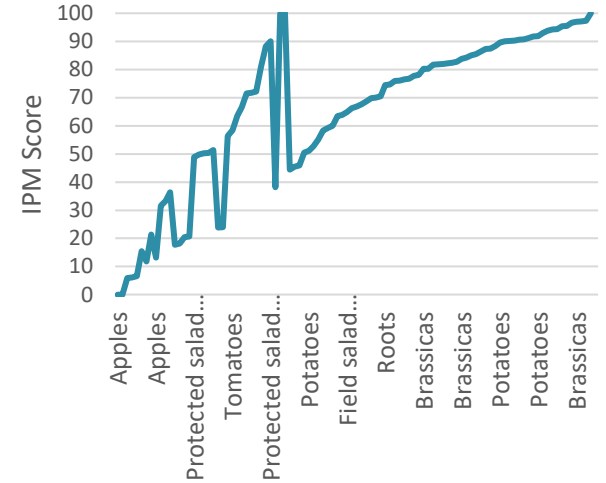
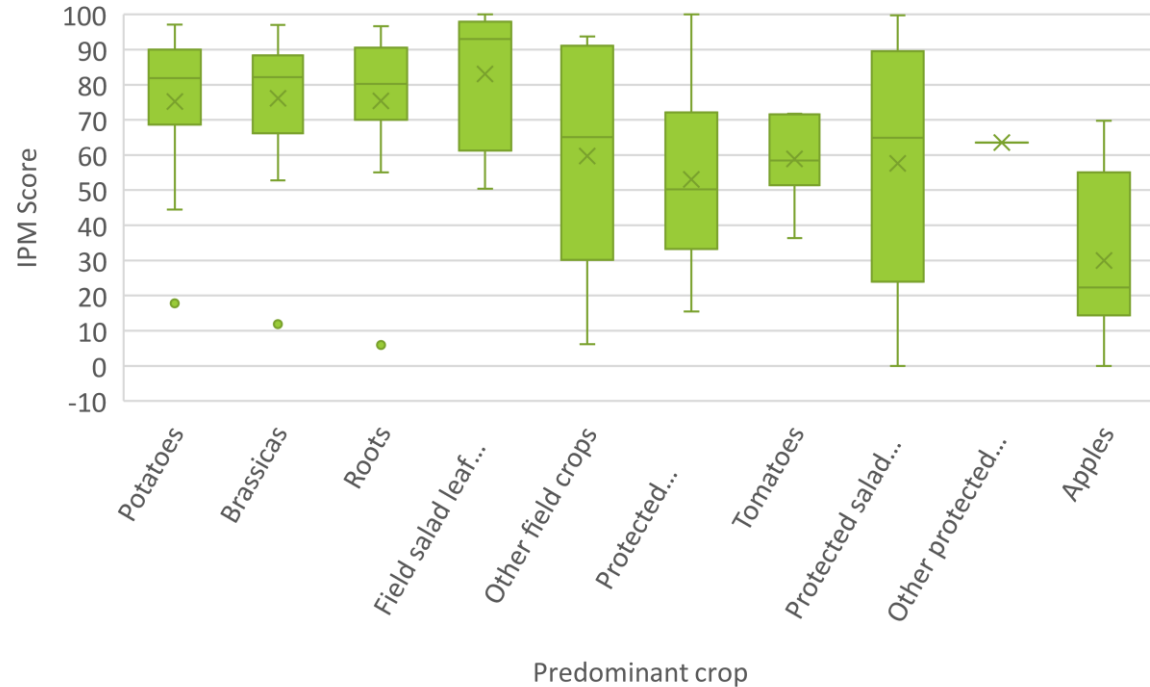


## 2. Weightings from the expert panel sessions

Relevant question within the survey	Final weightings	
	Field crops	Protected crops
<b>Q6. Land in continuous production for 3+ consecutive years</b>	12.17	N/A
<b>Q7b. Primary management reason for rotation</b>	14.94	1.88
<b>Q8. Factors considered when choosing crop variety</b>	11.44	21.67
<b>Q9a. &amp; 9b Measures to control the introduction &amp; spread of pests</b>	15.61	24.17
<b>Q10. Measures to control disease</b>	13.89	20
<b>Q11. Measures to control weeds</b>	11.67	5.63
<b>Q12. Factors considered in developing pest management plan</b>	10.56	19.79
<b>Q13. Membership of a grower/crop discussion group</b>	9.72	6.88
<b>Total</b>	100	100

# Outcomes

## 3. A (tentative) metric for Irish horticulture



# Acknowledgements

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**Lael Walsh and Fiona Thorne (Teagasc)**

