Integrated Pest Management Priority Needs
Identified by the Maine Integrated Pest Management Council May 2015. Ranked from highest (1) to lowest (5) in each of three categories.

Regulatory Priorities

1. Regulate sales of potentially invasive ornamental plants
2. Provide tax incentive for growers demonstrating IPM implementation
3. Provide regulatory incentive to stimulate public demand for certified IPM vendors of structural and lawn pest control services
4. Provide tax incentive or other means of subsidizing costs of growers and pest management service providers to become 3rd-party IPM certified
5. Require State of Maine contracted pest management service providers be 'IPM certified'

Research Priorities

1. Improved IPM action plans for vectors of Lyme disease, West Nile virus, and Eastern equine encephalitis.
2. Research on maple pests affecting syrup production and quality including forest tent caterpillar, fall webworm, Asian longhorn beetle, thrips, and pathogens, especially as affected by climate change.
3. Establish monitoring and reporting network across Maine to alert growers when certain vegetable pests (carrot rust fly, onion maggot, cabbage maggot) are active.
4. Additional research needed for IPM on lowbush blueberry, cranberry, pumpkin, lettuce, greenhouse ornamentals and bedding crops
5. Further research to improve IPM practices to protect crops against spotted wing drosophila.

Extension and Education Priorities

1. Improve public awareness and demand for IPM products and services
2. Educate the public on home and garden non-chemical pest control including discouraging use of ineffective or unnecessary use of pesticides and other strategies.
3. Expand delivery of Extension IPM Programs to serve more acres for current crops and add additional crops.
4. Improve availability of IPM protocols for crops where they are not currently available

4. Improve utilization of NRCS funds for IPM implementation