

The internationalization of the Plant Management Network

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Plant Management Network

About the Plant Management Network

The Plant Management Network (PMN) is a nonprofit online publishing effort whose mission is to enhance the health, management, and production of agricultural and horticultural crops. That mission is achieved through the publication of applied, multidisciplinary, and online resources focusing on the protection and production of large and small crops, forages, ornamentals, and turfgrass.

These searchable resources include four journals, which have collectively featured nearly 800 peer-reviewed articles to date; thousands of efficacy reports on fungicides, nematicides, insecticides, and biological controls; symposia and meeting proceedings; educational webcasts; and other science-based information that helps users make informed management recommendations or decisions.

Both practitioners and researchers in the applied plant sciences are PMN's primary users. Practitioners include consultants, field personnel, growers, and those who educate growers through extension programs. Researchers and students using the Plant Management Network's resources represent a variety of academic disciplines. Some of these disciplines include plant pathology, entomology, nematology, weed science, integrated pest management, agronomy, seed science, and soil science. In 2008 alone, nearly 360,000 individuals visited the Plant Management Network website, www.plantmanagementnetwork.org.

PMN began in 2000 as a project of the American Phytopathological Society. Its first publication was titled *Plant Health Progress*, a peer-reviewed, multidisciplinary journal covering plant disease, entomology, and nematology. Since its inception, PMN has continued to develop multidisciplinary content and now contains eleven distinct resources, all accessible through one single subscription. Other titles

include *Crop Management, Forage and Grazinglands, Applied Turfgrass Science, Plant Disease Management Reports, Arthropod Management Tests*, and PMN's image collections and searchable databases.

PMN fills three core needs: 1) It provides a viable means of getting science-based management information to practitioners who need it. Thanks to the support of 68 partnering organizations, now notably including the Royal Netherlands Society of Plant Pathology (KNPV), PMN is available through both low-cost library and personal subscriptions, and through no cost access for institutions in developing countries registered in the United Nations AGORA journals program. 2) PMN serves the need for cross-disciplinary information, especially among practitioners who have broad informational needs in a variety of cropping environments. PMN offers one convenient, searchable suite of information for their reference. 3) PMN serves the need for a peer-reviewed publishing venue for *applied* crop protection and production information.

How Subscribers and Partners Use the Plant Management Network

PMN resources are especially helpful for those working in national and state/provincial agricultural and educational institutions, particularly those involved in research and/or extension work. The journals provide information that can ultimately help these organizations develop informed management recommendations.

Agribusiness companies, large and small, use the Plant Management Network to support the ongoing education of their field personnel. Specifically, they use *Plant Disease Management Reports* and *Arthropod Management Tests* to compare the efficacy of both chemical and biological pest controls. Through such work, new chemical and non-chemical pest controls are

created. In addition, their agronomy personnel use PMN's journals to keep up to date on the latest crop management information.

PMN is also an excellent resource for agricultural colleges and universities, particularly for researchers and students working on and studying the applied end of plant science research. PMN's journals offer fully citable, peer-reviewed information indexed in CAB Abstracts and AGRICOLA.

Partners, which include universities, nonprofit scientific societies, and agriculturally related companies—68 to date—use the Plant Management Network as a venue for reaching PMN's large, diverse readership. Through their own websites, partners offer web-based information, recommendations, and solutions that are featured in the Plant Management Network. Such information is screened for relevance and then indexed in the PMN's searchable resources, like the PMN Partner Extension Search, PMN Cross-Journal Search, and the Plant Science Database. This is where the mutually beneficial "Network" concept in Plant Management Network comes into play.



Screenshot of the Plant Management Network

Internationalization

While headquartered in the United States, PMN continues to develop an international presence. Most countries are already involved through personal subscriptions, institutional subscriptions, AGORA-sponsored access, authorship, and partnership. But more work still needs to be done before PMN can fulfill its mission on a truly international scale. To achieve this, the Plant Management Network invites the participation

of the global community through authorship, partnerships, and supporting subscriptions.

Authors are vital to PMN's internationalization. Those who are involved in publishing applied crop science research are encouraged to submit their manuscripts to one of PMN's four journals. Authorship allows for an international exchange of information. Authors receive fully peer-reviewed citable publication and page charge-free processing. Learn more about authoring at www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/call.

Partners are another vital group in realizing PMN's international mission. Each time a new partner joins the Network, their relevant web-based information is integrated into PMN's resources, making PMN more useful to its readership. Government agencies, universities, companies, and scientific societies looking to build a greater international presence and to providing complimentary or discounted access to their personnel should contact partners@plantmanagementnetwork.org.

Subscribers are the third and final component for PMN's international success. As a not-for-profit endeavor, the Plant Management Network seeks to support itself through both individual and institutional subscriptions. To learn more about personal subscriptions, visit www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/subscriptions, or for library information, visit www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/library.

The Plant Management Network looks forward to serving the Royal Netherlands Society of Plant Pathology as a partner—and to serving its membership and the international community through the mutually beneficial avenues of partnership, authorship, and subscriptions.