

Annual RAMP Meeting

The annual planning and organizational meeting of the USDA RAMP project described below will be held in conjunction with the Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Trade Show at Savannah GA in January in the Convention Center (<http://www.savtcc.com/>).

This year we will have our 2009 RAMP planning sessions at the Savannah Convention Center on :

Thursday, January 8 at 4:00-6:00 PM in the Green Board Room (2009 update)

Friday, January 9 at 10:00AM-12:00noon in the Green Board Room (2009 planning)

at educational session rooms 1:30-3:00PM (TSWV/thrips overview)

Saturday, January at 10 8AM-5PM in the Pulaski Board Room (if extra time is needed)

RAMP Project Title: A Reduced-Risk System for Managing Thrips and Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus in Tomato and Pepper in the Southeastern USA

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Objectives:

- 1) Optimize procedures for using available TSWV management options and define their effectiveness, costs and benefits when used alone and in combination (mulch, resistant plant cultivars, and chemical tools).
- 2) Refine and extend weather-based models for predicting the relative favorability of conditions for and predicted timing of TSWV spread into crops in spring.
- 3) Develop a risk based decision guide for growers to evaluate the need for and the optimum combination of TSWV management tactics for their situation based on an econometric model.
- 4) Facilitate implementation of reduced risk thrips and TSWV management in tomato and pepper through an extensive out-reach program.