How Much Damage Can You Live With?

Managing Damage of Serious Insect Pests on a Certified Organic Fruit and Vegetable Farm in Kentucky
Harmony Fields Farm
Shelbyville, Kentucky

Larry D. Brandenburg

- Thirty-five acres certified organic
- Three acres of vegetables, fruits, herbs
- Twenty-five acres pasture and hay
- Five acres of woodland
- Two acres of homestead and buildings
How much insect damage is acceptable?
Economic Considerations

• Management philosophy
• Crop selection
• Time management
• Labor
• Crop and variety selection:
  – ‘Prince Hairy’ developed at Cornell through cross with a wild potato from Bolivia
  – leaves and stems armed with hairs (trichomes) filled with sticky fluid

Single plant yield
Row covers: Worth the time?
Hand-picking: Time, labor
Harmony Fields Farm
Certified Organic Vegetables & Flowers

USDA Organic

Adidas

Flowers on display at a market stand.