

What is Integrated Pest Management (IPM)?

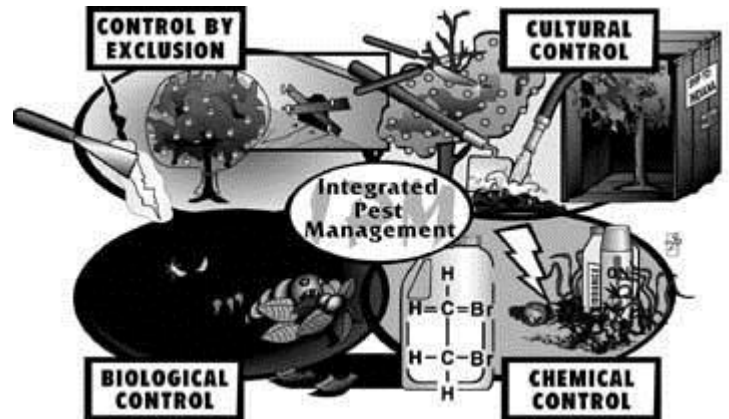


Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a safer and usually less costly alternative for effective control of pests. IPM involves performing common sense pest control practices and limiting the use of chemical pesticides to only when it is necessary or appropriate. IPM program encourages participants to plan and practice activities aimed at reducing sources of food, water and shelter for pests to discourage them from entering and living in and around buildings.

How is IPM put into practice?:

Start by:

1. Identifying the pest problem in your home, school or business.
2. Take action only after you are certain of the type of pests and the areas where they are frequently found. These "pest prone" areas include:
 - Food storage area, cracks and crevices in walls, floors and pavement.
 - Cabinets, cupboards, lockers and desks.
 - Vegetation, shrubs and wood mulch near buildings.
 - Garbage cans and dumpsters.



Take action by:

1. Planting vegetation, shrubs and wood mulch at least one foot away from structures.
2. Filling or eliminating cracks and crevices in walls, floors and pavement.
3. Emptying and thoroughly cleaning lockers, desks and other food storage areas at least twice yearly.
4. Cleaning food-contaminated dishes, utensils and surfaces frequently.
5. Emptying and cleaning garbage cans and dumpsters regularly.
6. Collecting and properly disposing of litter at least once a week or as soon as they are filled.
7. Applying fertilizers several times (e.g., spring, summer, and fall) during the year, rather than doing one heavy application.
8. If pesticides are necessary, use spot treatments rather than area-wide applications.



[Adopted from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)]

Additional Resources:

1. EPA website: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/index.htm#bkmrk2>
2. JAMA article on: Acute Illnesses Associated With Pesticide Exposure at Schools <http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/294/4/455>
3. University of Florida's IPM in School program: <http://schoolipm.ifas.ufl.edu/>