

The Facts on Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

The Top-5 Reasons Why IPM For Urban Landscapes Is Flawed

- 1. IPM For Homeowners Is Unproven** - IPM programs for homeowners remain unproven in terms of achieving significant reductions in pesticide use. Municipalities with pesticide by-laws focus primarily on the use of natural (ecological) and other alternative lawn care practices.
- 2. Québec Rejected IPM Four Years Ago** - The Province of Québec rejected IPM because the lawn-care industry's "version" of IPM relied almost exclusively on pesticides. The Association des Services en Horticulture, Ornementale du Québec (ASHQQ), which is the equivalent to Landscape Ontario, revealed that in the Year 2000, only 0.5% of their IPM lawn care treatments were employing "alternative methods."
- 3. IPM Accreditation Is Flawed** - An IPM accredited company is no guarantee to a customer that the actual pesticide applicators treating their property will be properly trained and IPM accredited. Only **one (1)** officer for that entire local company is required to attend an IPM training course for the company to be deemed wholly IPM accredited!.
- 4. IPM Is Industry's Excuse To Avoid By-laws** - IPM is the lawn application industry's attempt to "repackage and resell" in order to avoid municipally imposed pesticide bans.
- 5. IPM Council Promotes Industry Interests Only** - Industry's self-regulatory body known as the "IPM Council" is largely driven by Landscape Ontario and pro-pesticide organizations which lobby "to preserve the use of pesticides."

Beyond Pesticides

Safety Source for Pest Management

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a program of prevention, monitoring, and control which offers the opportunity to eliminate or drastically reduce the use of pesticides, and to minimize the toxicity of and exposure to any products which are used. IPM does this by utilizing a variety of methods and techniques, including cultural, biological and structural strategies to control a multitude of pest problems.

IPM is a term that is used loosely with many different definitions and methods of implementation. IPM can mean virtually anything the practitioner wants it to mean. Beware of chemical dependent programs masquerading as IPM.

Those who argue that IPM requires the ability to spray pesticides immediately after identifying a pest problem are not describing IPM. Conventional pest control tends to ignore the causes of pest infestations and instead rely on routine, scheduled pesticide applications. Pesticides are often temporary fixes, ineffective over the long term.

Under IPM, chemicals should be used only as a last resort only, but when used, the least-toxic materials should be chosen, and applied to minimize exposure to humans and all non-target organisms.

Source: What Is Integrated Pest Management?

Page 1 of 3

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City of Ottawa - Maintaining a Healthy Lawn

"Integrated Pest Management" and "Plant Health Care" programs are not designed to eliminate chemical pesticide use. In an organic lawn care program, chemical pesticides are not used, even as a last resort.

Source: Lawn Care Providers, What about IPM programs?

University of Illinois - Turfgrass Extension & Outreach **Tom Voigt and Tom Fermanian**

Contrary to some beliefs, pesticides are often part of an IPM program. They are selected and applied responsibly to avoid health risks to living organisms other than those targeted. **Pesticides are used as a last-resort control based on the need to maintain a pest population** below the predetermined aesthetic or economic threshold in IPM.

Source: Integrated Pest Management for Turf Managers

United States Environmental Protection Agency

In technical terms, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is the coordinated use of pest and environmental information with available pest control methods to **prevent unacceptable levels of pest damage by the most economical means and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment.**

Source: What Integrated Pest Management Means

British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection

IPM is an approach that uses a combination of techniques in an organized program to suppress pests effectively, economically and in an environmentally sound manner. Think of it as a way to manage landscapes to prevent problems and to make decisions about managing pests

In an IPM program, pest managers use regular inspections, called monitoring, to collect the information they need to make treatment decisions. A central idea in IPM is that a treatment is only used when pest numbers justify it, not as a routine measure. **Applying pesticides according to a schedule based on calendar dates is rarely, if ever, done in IPM programs.**

Source: Integrated Pest Management Manual for Landscape Pests in British Columbia

Landscape Ontario

Sarah Willis, Editorial Director

The problem with IPM is that no one can agree on an official definition of the phrase. Every proponent of IPM in the ornamental horticulture industry has his or her own meaning for the term. To some, IPM means using no pesticides at all. However, while the aim of IPM is to reduce pesticide use, **horticultural chemicals remain an important tool** in all of the generally accepted definitions of IPM.

Source: Pest wars: Marketing successful and practical IPM strategies, Landscape Trades and Horticulture Review

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Landscape Ontario

Ken Pavely, IPM Turf Grass Specialist

Integrated Pest Management, or "IPM" is a decision-making **process that uses all necessary techniques to suppress pests** effectively, economically, and in a sound manner to sustain healthy landscapes"

Source: Presentation to Municipal Sector Workshop, February 19, 2004

Health Canada - Pest Management Regulatory Agency **Regulatory Information Officer**

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a decision-making process which uses a variety of techniques, including cultural, mechanical and biological methods, along with pesticides, to suppress pest populations. For example, an IPM program for lawns and turf includes the use of good cultural practices such as aeration, over seeding, manual weeding, proper watering and fertilizing, and increased mowing height to promote healthy deep-rooted lawns and turf which are less susceptible to pest damage. **An IPM approach emphasizes pest prevention and includes pest identification and monitoring, and the use of appropriate pest management methods to reduce the reliance on pesticides.**

The goal of the Healthy Lawns Strategy is to help reduce Canadians' reliance on pesticide use for lawn care through the application of IPM principles with particular emphasis on pest prevention, use of reduced risk products and application of pesticides only when necessary. **It is recognized that there may be situations where pesticide use is deemed necessary due to thresholds or infestation levels.**

Source: Reply to e-mail query, January 12, 2004

IPM Code Of Practice For Golf

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) – decision-making process that uses all necessary techniques to suppress pests effectively, economically and in an environmentally sound manner **to sustain healthy landscapes with the goal of respecting genetic diversity and reducing risks to human health and environment.**

Source: The National Golf Course Owners Association Canada, August 2003

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs **Pam Charbonneau - Turfgrass Specialist**

An IPM strategic plan will set down in writing what you are trying to accomplish. This will vary slightly with each turf situation. Some of the items that you want to include in a strategic plan are:

A statement of the purpose of your IPM program. **Are you doing it because you want to reduce pesticide use or because you have been forced by your municipal council to reduce pesticides?** Is the reason for implementation of IPM to save money, to be a better environmental steward or are you trying to comply with a program such as the Canadian Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program or the New York Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program

Source: Integrated Pest Management-Getting Started , July 29, 2003