

What is Integrated Pest Management or IPM?

Under the new *Integrated Pest Management Act and Regulation* for British Columbia, the Ministry of Environment now requires all landscape and lawn-care companies to use IPM techniques in your yard. IPM is a practical decision-making process that relies on a wide variety of tools to promote healthy plants and to manage pests. It is an effective, science-based approach that **reduces the unnecessary spraying of pesticides around your home**. In general, there are six elements to a good landscape IPM program:

Step 1: Prevention Focusing on plant health is the best way to prevent pests and diseases from occurring. Good fertilizing, aerating and mowing practices create strong grass that out-competes weeds. Proper pruning and fertilizing make for healthy shrubs and trees that are less susceptible to pest damage.

Healthy plants are less susceptible to pests and diseases.



Step 2: Identification Correctly identifying pests is critical, as most new treatment methods are tailored to a particular pest species. Proper identification takes time, and may require your company to closely examine the plants and insects in your yard, check guides or manuals, and consult with a horticultural expert.

Step 3: Monitoring Pest levels must be monitored so that correct treatment decisions can be made. Monitoring may involve visits where a plant health technician examines your yard and records information about pest levels, amount of plant damage and levels of beneficial insects.

Sticky cards can be used to monitor insect pests.



Photo: W. Cranshaw

Step 4: Action levels For each pest problem, your plant health professional should discuss your expectations with you. He or she can then use this information, along with established thresholds, to decide if and when a treatment is necessary.

Step 5: Treatment For any given pest, a variety of treatment methods may be available, and several may be used together for better results. Examples include:

- **physical controls:** using mulches, spraying aphids with water and pulling weeds.
- **cultural controls:** planting resistant varieties in the proper location.
- **chemical controls:** using synthetic and naturally-derived pesticides when necessary. These include conventional pesticides, as well as reduced-risk options like insect pheromones, insecticidal soaps and vinegar for weed control.

Pheromone pouches are a reduced-risk product that can help protect pine trees from the mountain pine beetle.



Step 6: Evaluation IPM programs must be continually evaluated to find ways to improve plant health and reduce pesticide use.

What else can you expect from an IPM program?

Landscape and lawn-care companies will spend more time doing prevention, proper site management, identifying pests and monitoring before they consider any chemical treatment options.

A technician examines flowers for evidence of pest damage.



They will look for beneficial insects, such as honey bees, bumble bees, ladybugs and lacewings, and will avoid spraying a harmful insecticide when these insects are active. Beneficial insects are extremely important to the overall health of the plants in your yard.

This fierce looking creature is your friend! It is a lady bug larva, and it is a voracious aphid predator.



Photo: B. Higbee

Whenever possible, they will use a **reduced-risk pesticide**, which pose fewer risks to humans, animals, and the environment. Reduced-risk pesticides often have a shorter period of activity than more toxic pesticides, and may require more frequent applications.

How can you get involved?

Good communication between you and your landscape or lawn-care professional is essential so that they know what your expectations are. In turn, ask them about their IPM program. For example:

- What services do they offer to maximize the health of your lawn, shrubs and trees?



Photo: D. Cappaert

- What non-chemical or reduced-risk treatments do they offer? Do they offer any organic products?

- How can you, the homeowner, adjust your way of thinking about pests and weeds around your home? A healthy lawn and yard can have some pests and weeds and still be a wonderful and safe place for you, your kids and your pets to enjoy.



Safe. Effective. Responsible.
Ask about IPM.

The BC Landscape & Nursery Association states:

“The BCLNA is highly supportive of Integrated Pest Management techniques. Accordingly, we encourage member companies to regularly monitor for pests and diseases, identify the pest and apply treatment only when monitoring shows it is needed.”

For more information on IPM in landscapes please visit:

The Plant Health BC website:

www.kwantlen.ca/planthealthbc.html

Plant Health BC promotes the use of IPM by offering pest management accreditation to landscape and lawn care companies.



The Ministry of Environment's IPM Program website:

www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/ipmp

The BC Landscape and Nursery Association website:

www.bclna.com

The University of Wisconsin's Ask About IPM website:

www.askaboutipm.info



Ministry of
Environment

Integrated Pest Management

As practiced by your
licensed landscape or
lawn-care professional
in British Columbia



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