Benefits of Choosing a PESP Participant

COMMITMENT – All participants commit to offering Integrated Pest Management to their customers.

INNOVATION – Participants are trained in the latest reduced-risk technologies and practices in the industry.

KNOWLEDGE RESOURCE – Participants have knowledge surrounding reduced-risk options for pest control and can serve as a resource.

Tips for Working with Your Pest Management Professional

ASK if they follow Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principals.

PARTNER to solve problems that do not require pesticides such as sealing cracks and windows, cleaning gutters, trimming plants near your house, vacuuming, and more.

LISTEN, learn, and educate your neighbor!

www.epa.gov/pestwise

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Pesticide Environmental
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EPA's Pesticide Enviromental
Stewardship Program

Caring for you and your environment

EPA
United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

It's your world. We want to protect it.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Pesticide Enviromental Stewardship Program (PESP) is an exciting, voluntary program that encourages pest management firms to reduce the potential health and environmental risks associated with pests and pesticide use. PESP members affirm that environmental stewardship is an integral part of pest management.

Partners of EPA's PESP have taken steps toward reducing risks from the use of pesticides by embracing Integrated Pest Management. To advance common environmental goals, PESP participants should be committed to establishing partnerships with customers to help eliminate pest problems through a comprehensive approach. Informed actions promote reduced-risk practices.

What is Integrated Pest Management?

Pesticides are powerful tools for controlling pests. However, there also are other tools available for use in pest control, many of which pose less risk to human health and the environment than pesticides. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an effective and environmentally sensitive approach that makes use of a variety of these tools. The concept — *know what the problem is before you apply pesticides* — is fundamental to planning a successful IPM program. IPM relies on a combination of common-sense practices and science-based strategies, rather than solely on pesticide spraying.

IPM programs use current, comprehensive information regarding the life cycles of pests — which may include insects, weeds, rodents or other small mammals or wildlife, birds, or other living organisms — and their interaction with the environment. IPM strategies make use of this information in combination with available pest control technologies to manage pests economically, and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment. IPM programs take advantage of all appropriate pest management strategies, including the judicious and careful use of pesticides, when necessary.

Who can use IPM?

Anyone with a pest control problem can implement an IPM program — farmers, homeowners, landscape professionals, school administrators, etc. IPM principles can be applied to both agricultural settings such as farms and orchards and other settings like homes, yards, schools, workplaces, and wilderness areas.

How do IPM programs work?

IPM is not a single pest control method but, rather, an approach that involves a series of pest management evaluations, decisions, and controls. Consequently, every IPM program is different. Each program is designed around individual pest prevention goals and eradication needs, considered in the context of the environment or setting. Regardless of their differences, successful IPM programs use the same four-tiered approach.

1. Set Action Thresholds — Before taking any pest control actions, IPM users first set an action threshold — a point at which pest populations or environmental conditions indicate that pest control action must be taken. This threshold is often the level at which pests will become a health hazard or an economic threat. Finding a single pest does not always mean pest control is needed — a predetermined threshold is critical to guide pest control decisions.

2. Monitor and Identify Pests — Not all pests require control. Many insects are not harmful, and some are even beneficial. IPM programs work to monitor for and accurately identify pests so appropriate decisions can be made in conjunction with action thresholds. Information gathered from pests monitoring and identification can help users take appropriate preventative measures and reduce the possibility that pesticides will be used unnecessarily or incorrectly.

3. Prevent — Prevention, removing conditions that attract pests, is an IPM program's first line of defense. Prevention includes taking steps to ensure that pest populations cannot increase to unacceptable levels. To prevent pests from becoming a threat, IPM programs work to manage crops, landscapes, or indoor spaces — creating unfavorable contitions for pests to colonize, grow, and reproduce.

4. Control — If monitoring, identification, and action thresholds indicate that pest control is required, and preventive methods are no longer effective or available, control methods can be employed. Control methods are evaluated on effectiveness and relative risk. Those methods found both to be most effective and to pose the lowest risk are selected first.

Visit www.epa.gov/pestwise for more info.