

Earth Kind:

Environmental Stewardship Program

Landscape IPM:

What is Landscape IPM?

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a strategy of managing pests that is designed to meet individual goals in the most economically and environmentally sound manner possible using a combination of control tactics.

IPM is a systematic, information-intensive approach which depends upon a thorough understanding of the entire landscape. It strives to use several complimentary tactics or control methods to manage pests which make the landscape more stable and subject to fewer problems. IPM focuses on tactics that will prevent or avoid anticipated pest problems rather than remediate problems once they occur.



What are the tactics or control methods used in IPM?

The tactics or methods used in IPM include one or a combination of the following:

Cultural control (use of locally adapted or pest resistant/tolerant varieties, sanitation, manipulating planting dates to avoid pests)

Biological control (protect, enhance or import natural enemies of pests)

Mechanical control (cultivation, trapping, pest exclusion)

Chemical control (insect growth regulators, pheromones, biological/chemical pesticides)



What is an Action Threshold?

An action threshold is the point at which an unacceptable economic or aesthetic impact on the landscape is reached. Once this decision has been made one or more of the 4 control tactics (cultural, mechanical, biological, chemical) may be implemented.

Earth Kind uses research-proven techniques to provide maximum gardening and landscape enjoyment while preserving and protecting our environment.

The objective of Earth Kind is to combine the best of organic and traditional gardening and landscaping principles to create a new horticultural system based on real-world effectiveness and environmental responsibility.

The principal goals of Earth Kind include:

- Water conservation
- The safe use and handling of fertilizers & pesticides
- Reduction of yard wastes entering urban landfills

As your interest and knowledge in these areas grows you will have an increased awareness of the many programs, practices and activities that are Earth Kind. Working together we can make a difference in conserving and protecting our valuable natural resources.

For more information
see our Web site:

EarthKind.tamu.edu



IPM Decision-Making:

There is a 6 step process to decision-making in IPM:

Identify the problem or pest

Determine the severity of the problem (close inspection, traps, past history) and determine if the action threshold has been reached.

Assess the management options (do nothing, cultural, biological, chemical control)

Select and apply one or more options

Measure the success of options employed

Record the results

Questions to Ask Before Pest Management Decisions Are Made:

What pests are present, in what numbers and stages of development?

What conditions exist that may increase or decrease pest problems?

What natural enemies of the pests, such as parasites, predators, and diseases, are present that may play an important role in control?

What amount and type of damage is being caused or may soon be caused by pests?

What is the stage of development, condition, and value of the landscape and plant materials?

What is the potential for economical injury? How much damage is tolerable? Has the action threshold been reached?

What pest management options are available, and how do the advantages and disadvantages of each apply to the situation?

If alternatives are not available, is a pesticide treatment justified for the situation? If so, what is the material of choice?

If a pesticide is not justified, what approaches, if any, should be taken?

Close inspection of the landscape and action thresholds can be used to provide much of the information needed to answer these questions.

Earth Kind IPM is an important decision making process to determine the best option(s) for managing insects, diseases and weeds in the landscape. Following the IPM approach can greatly reduce the environmental risks associated with the use of chemical pesticides.



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