

# Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

## Guidance for NJ Municipalities



### What is Integrated Pest Management (IPM)?

IPM is an environmentally friendly, common-sense approach to controlling pests. It involves the implementation of diverse methods of pest controls, paired with monitoring in order to reduce unnecessary pesticide application. The primary goal of IPM is to minimize health and environmental risks from pesticides.

### Why is IPM important for municipalities?

- IPM can reduce acute exposures to pesticides, such as accidental poisonings and also reduce long-term exposures, which can cause serious health effects such as birth defects, organ damage and cancer.
- IPM improves water resources by reducing pollutants entering storm drains, groundwater aquifers, and surface waters.
- IPM strategies reduce costs for pesticide purchases.
- Reducing pesticides benefits human health, especially young children who are susceptible due to behaviors such as increased hand to mouth activity.
- Pesticides have extreme negative effects on biodiversity and harm honeybees and butterflies, which are critical pollinators.
- Pets are at risk of exposure to pesticides, like skin contact or ingestion, at pesticide-treated municipal grounds, and can also track pesticide residue into the home.



### IPM goals for your municipality

- Implement IPM at the local level to reduce pesticide use in municipal properties (such as parks and fields). Note: IPM is required in all NJ schools including on their athletic fields and playground areas.
- Consider **Pesticide Free Zones** in the municipal playgrounds and fields.
- Publicize the municipality's use of IPM and encourage the adoption of IPM practices by homeowners and businesses.
- Consider hiring a certified applicator who has taken the required Category 13 Training to apply IPM in NJ schools for any required pest management.

### Resources for Municipalities

#### National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC)

#### NJDOH resources:

- How pesticides can affect health, wildlife, pets, and the environment
- Guidance on implementing IPM in homes
- Tips on reducing pesticide use in lawn care



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