



Get the Facts!

about

Pesticides



Spring, 2001

Integrated Pest Management in Schools

Failure to manage pests and/or the inappropriate use of pesticides can lead to adverse health problems including allergic reactions, asthma exacerbation, and increased risk of cancer and neurological damage in children.

What is Integrated Pest Management (IPM)?

Integrated Pest Management is a holistic approach to pest control. It is a decision making process that begins with identifying the pest, examining conditions of the site and possible causes of pest buildup, identifying ways to manage the pest (such as improving plant health or excluding pests) and finally, selecting the best option for the site. Pesticides are often not needed or are used as a last resort. When pesticides are needed, the least toxic pesticide is selected and carefully applied to prevent negative impact on children or the environment.

Why is IPM good for schools and kids?

- IPM focuses on growing healthy plants and maintaining healthy environments.
- IPM reduces exposure to the adverse effects of both pests and pesticides.
- IPM can provide valuable job training for students, when they are involved in the process.
- IPM often results in cost savings over the long term.

What is the role of EPA?

- To ensure that school personnel understand and follow national laws regulating pesticides use.
- To provide short term funding support for IPM demonstration projects or educational materials.
- To provide information, training, and technical assistance to schools interested in IPM.
- To facilitate pesticide applicator training and recertification programs.

What resources are available from EPA for an IPM Program in my school?

EPA's voluntary IPM in Schools Program offers technical assistance and limited grant funding for demonstration IPM projects. "*IPM for Schools: A How-To Manual*" and "*Pest Control and School Environment: Adopting IPM*" are available from the EPA Public Environmental Resource Center, 206-553-1200*. Additional publications, videos, training materials, and slides on IPM in Schools are also available through EPA and are listed on the webpage below.

More Questions?

Information on pest management certification and on pesticides and children is available at www.epa.gov/pesticides or by calling 1-800-424-5323.

For more information on resources or on starting an IPM program at your school, contact **Donald Priest** at priest.donald@epa.gov. (206) 553-2584*.

For technical information on pests, contact **Sharon Collman** at collman.sharon@epa.gov or 206-552-2876*.

*Outside of the (206) area code, dial toll free at: 1-800-424-4EPA (4372)