

IPM for Healthy Plants and a Healthy Environment

Washington State University Urban IPM and Pesticide Safety Education Program

Integrated Pest Management is the best way to keep your plants healthy and protect the environment at the same time.

IPM uses a variety of control methods for plant problems, not just pesticides.

You can use less pesticide and still have a beautiful yard, if you use Integrated Pest Management.

To Use IPM...

#1 Identify the cause of the problem.

Positively identify the pest: insect, disease or weed. Many plant problems are *not* caused by insects or diseases and **NO** pesticide should be applied. Stop unnecessary pesticide use.

#2 Use several methods to control plant pests.

- Select plants that have few problems and will grow well in the selected site.
- Reduce plant stress with proper watering, fertilization and pruning.
- Monitor plants for problems.
- Physically remove weeds with a hoe or insect pests by pinching them off. Aphids may be removed by hosing the plant with water. Use mechanical barriers like mulch that may suppress weeds.
- Choose effective biocontrol products or least hazardous pesticides, if available.
- Pesticides *are* used as part of an IPM strategy *when* appropriate.



For more information on IPM:

Pacific Northwest Landscape IPM Manual

Bobbitt et al., WSU Puyallup

WSU Home & Garden Fact Sheets

WSU Hortsense and Pestsense websites

pep.wsu.edu/hortsense

pep.wsu.edu/pestsense

Common Sense Pest Control

Olkowski et al., Taunton Press

For more information on the identification of insects, diseases, and weeds:

WSU County Extension offices

Landscape Plant Problems: A Diagnostic Manual

Byther et al., WSU Puyallup

Weeds of the West

Whitson et al., WSU Bulletins