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Why Teach IPM?

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Teachers resource under Maine School IPM (Integrated Pest Management) Program

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Why Teach IPM?

Engage your students in learning about their natural world! IPM encourages environmentally friendly methods of managing pests, an issue that is relevant and current.

- Includes basic science learning that connects K-12 students to the real world
- Covers topics such as invasive species, food webs, and school gardens.
- Teaches problem solving and critical thinking skills while demonstrating how human actions have impacts on the environment
- Provides practical knowledge that students and teachers can use in school gardens, greenhouses, agricultural/horticultural programs, vocational/technical education programs, and in their own homes
- IPM will help the next generation of earth's stewards attain safer, long term solutions to common pest issues.

According to the EPA, people use about 5.1 billion pounds of pesticides annually. Traditional, pesticide-based pest control approaches threaten human health and cause environmental disruption. The next generation of earth's citizens must be informed about sustainable, least-risk pest management practices to protect our food and fiber supply, safeguard the environment and promote human health.



**Maine School
IPM
Program**



Contact Us For More Information!

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Northeastern IPM Center

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Are you teaching about...

Insects?



Invasive Species?



Environment?



School Gardens?



**Maine School IPM
Program**



What is IPM?

IPM, or **Integrated Pest Management**, is not a product but a strategy and decision-making process that manages pests while safeguarding people, pets, and the environment. It joins common-sense practices with knowledge of pest biology to create an effective approach to pest management. When we understand the relationships within an ecosystem, we can be better stewards of the land. IPM is a great way to use our natural resources more sustainably.

Effective use of IPM requires that we learn a bit about why nature sometimes becomes a pest. When is a plant considered a weed? Why do carpenter ants play an important role in maintaining forests, but are feared pests in our homes? Armed with a basic understanding of pest biology and ecology, we can keep pests from causing us harm without disrupting the natural environment. When we learn the conditions leading to pest problems, we can often eliminate pests simply by changing those conditions.

IPM Methods Include:

Biological Control – utilizing a pest’s natural enemies: predators and parasites

Mechanical/Physical Control – using traps, barriers, fly swatters, change of temperature, or other physical means

Cultural Control – changing the pests’ environment to limit its access to food, water, or shelter

Chemical Control – using the least toxic product; it is used as a last resort in IPM



We are online! Find hundreds of **free** IPM lessons on our website available for download. They are **easy to use** and many have supplemental materials.

Visit our **School IPM Curricula Page:**

www.gotpests.org

Click on the blue Teachers’ Box.

Or www.maine.gov/ipm

Click on “Classroom Resources”



Find us on Facebook!

“No More Pests! IPM for Teachers and Kids.”

www.tinyurl.com/7wlsazo

IPM Curriculum Offers...

- Hands-on science learning
- Engaging, relevant activities that teach IPM concepts
- Environmental stewardship education
- Critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Inquiry-based lessons
- Lessons for all grades K-12

To schedule a classroom demonstration:
Contact Kathy Murray
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Photo credit: Close to Home, Dec. 8, 2011