



What to Know About **INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT FOR HOMES**

Use integrated pest management (IPM) to reduce or eliminate pests and pesticide applications in a way that is affordable, effective and poses the least risk to human health and the environment.

Pests may include insects, weeds, rodents, or other living organisms. IPM uses information on the life cycles of common pests and their interaction with the environment to control them. IPM takes advantage of all pest management options including limited use of toxic chemical applications and use of more species-specific chemicals, biological controls, and trapping.

Set Action Thresholds



Maintaining a healthy environment does not mean zero pests. Assess pest threat levels and set an action threshold before taking any pest control actions. This threshold is often the level at which pests will become a health hazard or economic threat.

Monitor and Identify Pests



Not all insects, weeds, and other living organisms require control. Many are harmless, and some are beneficial. Monitoring and identification reduce or eliminate the unnecessary or incorrect use of chemical pesticides.

Apply Prevention



As a first line of pest control, IPM aims to manage the garden, lawn or indoor space to prevent pests from becoming a threat. Prevention involves removing conditions that attract pests, and creating an unfavorable environment for pests to colonize, grow and reproduce. Eliminate the food, water and shelter pests need.

Prevention might include reducing clutter, sealing areas where pests enter an indoor space, keeping premises free of trash and overgrown vegetation, and diverting water away from a building or outdoor space to avoid standing water.



Implementation of Control Measures

Control should always start with the least toxic intervention possible, followed by successively stronger methods if needed. If monitoring, identification, and action thresholds indicate that pest control is required, and preventive methods are no longer effective or available, control methods can be employed. Possible control methods include:

- Trapping
- Heat/cold treatment
- Physical removal
- Natural predators like lady bugs and praying mantises

Pests can become resistant to pesticides, increasing control costs and creating opportunities for other pest damage. Pesticides may also kill natural enemies of pests, freeing pests from natural controls.

Benefits of IPM

By preventing pest activity and implementing control methods, IPM can achieve long-term results by:

- Reducing/eliminating the number of pests
- Reducing/eliminating the number of pesticide applications
- Saving money while protecting human health

Helpful Resources

University of Georgia Cooperative Extension

Georgia Pest Management Handbook

www.extension.uga.edu/programs-services/integrated-pest-management

Environmental Protection Agency

Pest Control and Pesticide Safety

www.epa.gov/safepestcontrol

For More Information

Georgia Department of Public Health

Environmental Health Section

Georgia Safe Siting Program

(404) 657-6534

www.dph.georgia.gov/georgia-safe-siting-program

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We protect lives.