

Integrated Pest Management

The goal of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is to control pests in the most environmentally friendly, cost effective, and efficient method possible. IPM can be used in agricultural and non-agricultural settings including homes, gardens, or workplaces.

When using IPM pesticides are used in a limited capacity in conjunction with biological practices to control the pests. Biological practices include using pheromones, trapping devices, and natural predators. One of the most important steps to IPM is to identify if control of the pests (weeds, insects, etc.) is necessary, since not all pests are damaging.

Before using pesticides around the house:

- Remove food, water, and shelter sources used by the pest.
- Remove pet food and water over night.
- Caulk cracks and crevices around cabinets or baseboards.
- Fix leaky plumbing.

Before using pesticides in the garden:

- Remove all breeding sites (standing water, etc.) outdoors.
- Plant species that are resistant to pest invasion and disease.
- Be sure the garden has good drainage.
- Try to rotate your crop locations every year. Pests that survive the winter will be less likely to invade if the crops are in a different location.
- Mulch the garden with leaves, hay, grass clippings, or shredded bark. DO NOT use newspaper, since it could contain toxic metals including lead and mercury.



*For tips on controlling invasive species visit: IPM
<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Horticulture/landipm/ipm/intro.htm>*

Where To Get Help for IPM information

- Maryland Cooperative Extension Cecil County Office; 410-996-5280; <https://extension.umd.edu/cecil-county>
- Integrated Pest Management in Schools; <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides>
- EPA, Pesticides Fact Sheets; <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/index.htm>
- A Citizen's Guide to Pest Control and Pesticide Safety; <https://www.epa.gov/safepestcontrol/citizens-guide-pest-control-and-pesticide-safety>