

INTERGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)

IPM uses a variety of methods to reduce the risk associated with chemicals to people and the environment while managing pests. Eliminating all insect pests isn't practical; "flawless" lawns and landscapes are expensive, impossible to sustain, and detrimental to the environment. Most people know that pesticides can be harmful to people and the environment; few realize that the overuse of pesticides can also cause or intensify plant problems!



Contact TruNorth to assess and apply all pesticide agents for your own safety and the safety and health of your landscape.

Pesticide Overuse Stimulates Pest Resistance

Insects that survive pesticide application have the most tolerance to it. These tolerant insects pass on this resistance to their young. Repeated applications of the same pesticide tend to increase resistance through several generations. Eventually, the insect is no longer controlled by that pesticide.

Make Correct Identifications

Less than one percent of all insects are harmful to plants. Many are beneficial, and most are neither. Having a few insect pests does not always indicate a need for control. Often, dropping leaves, off color foliage and other abnormalities are from environmental causes that can be corrected without the use of pesticides.

When using a pesticide, treat only the affected plants. Limit pesticide treatment on lawns to the problem area and a few feet beyond. Insect predators and other natural controls will survive in untreated areas, repopulate the problem area, and slow down or control future pest outbreaks.



Keep Simple Records and Evaluate Control Actions

Keep records of pest problems and control measures. These can be as simple as notations on calendars. Reviewing past calendars will help you predict potential pest problems. It is also very important to evaluate the effectiveness of pest control measures taken. This helps one learn which methods are most successful.

Handle and Store Pesticide Safety

Read and follow all label instructions carefully. Keep pesticides in their original containers. Apply pest control chemicals during cool parts of the day (early morning or evening). Never apply pesticides on windy days or on plants suffering from lack of moisture. Keep pesticides stored in a dry, well-ventilated place secure from the reach of children. Do not store food where pesticides are kept.

Safety of Others

As a courtesy to your neighbors, we encourage you to post a sign if you apply any pesticides to your lawn or landscape plants.

Pest Problems caused by Overwatering

Plant roots need air as well as water to survive. Over watering displaces air in the soil, stressing the roots which cause disease. The top ½" of soil should dry before the next watering. Water only when necessary to meet the plants needs. Shrubs and trees need water less often than grass and annuals. Therefore, plant beds should be on separate irrigation zones from turf.

For any questions or concerns regarding pesticides, contact TruNorth

