

Why Teach IPM?

Engage your students in learning about their natural world! IPM encourages environmentally friendly methods of managing pests.



According to the EPA, people use about 5.1 billion pounds of pesticides each year. 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, safeguard the environment and promote human health.

Find Lessons and Classroom Resources for IPM Education at
www.maine.gov/ipm

Additional IPM Resources at
www.northeastipm.org/



NE School IPM Working Group

Northeastern IPM Center

United States Department of Food and Agriculture



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Teaching about...

Insects?



Invasive Species?



Environment?



School Gardens?



NE School IPM Working Group

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"

A screenshot of a website titled "SCHOOL IPM CURRICULA". The page features a green header with the title and a menu bar with links like "Home", "Contact Us", "Curriculum by Grade", "Curriculum by Subject", and "Teachers". Below the header, there's a section for "K-12 Integrated Pest Management Education" with a "What is IPM?" link and a "Teachers! Participate in a North East regional IPM education demonstration!" link. A sidebar on the right lists "FEATURED LINKS" such as "Maine School IPM", "Maine Ag in the Classroom", and "Maine Cooperative Extension". At the bottom, there's a "Do you know any IPM Curriculum Resources not listed here? Contact Kathy".



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
- Engages the students in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) learning

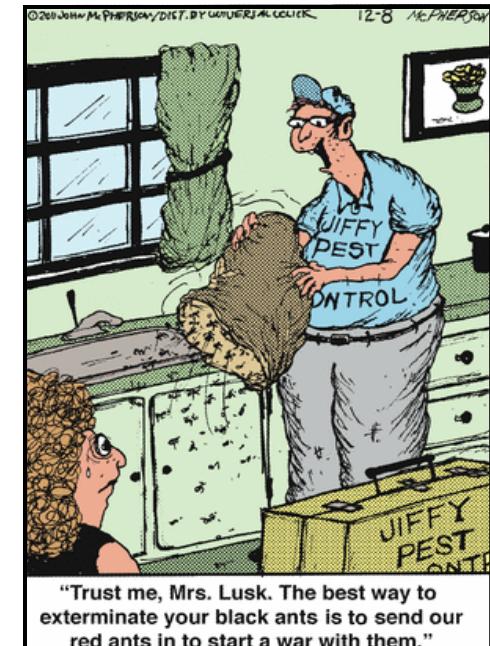


Photo credit: Close to Home, Dec. 8,2011