



PRESS RELEASE

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New Homeowner Pest Management Website Launched at the Portland Flower Show

PORTLAND—The Maine Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Council will be officially launching its new *Got Pests?* website, GotPests.org, at the Maine YardScaping Partnership exhibit of the Portland Flower Show, on Friday, March 11, at 11:00 AM. Several years in the making, this extensive website is designed specifically for Maine homeowners, to help them identify the most common pests found in their homes and gardens, and point them to the most up-to-date information available on pest management, with an emphasis on low-risk methods.

“In creating the *Got Pests?* website, the first priority was to make it easy for the non-expert to identify their pests, using a simple, intuitive interface, and high-quality images of the pests and the damage they cause,” says IPM Council Chair Ron Lemin. “Once a pest has been identified, links lead to factsheets and other information, including good things about the pest that people might not be aware of, how to live with it, if possible, and how to manage it using the most effective and least invasive techniques.”

Visitors to the exhibit will have live access to the *Got Pests?* website, viewed on a large-screen monitor, and the assistance of IPM Council and Partnership volunteers, and will be challenged to find solutions to their most pressing pest problems. Factsheets can be printed out and taken home.

Dr. Kathy Murray, IPM Council co-coordinator and Department of Agriculture entomologist, says, “The *Got Pests?* website offers homeowners easy access to the best research-based information from institutions such as the University of Maine.”

The Maine Board of Pesticides Control, Maine Department of Agriculture, Maine Forest Service, and University of Maine Cooperative Extension collaborated with the IPM Council in creating *Got Pests?*.

The 2011 Portland Flower Show will be held March 10–13 at the Portland Company Marine Complex, at 58 Fore Street on the Portland waterfront. The YardScaping booth is #33, in the aisle just outside the main exhibition hall on the ground floor of the show.

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The Maine Integrated Pest Management Council was established by the Maine Legislature to promote and enhance implementation of IPM practices that reduce or minimize harmful environmental and human health impacts of pesticides and other pest management practices.

The Maine YardScaping Partnership was formed out of the rising concern among statewide businesses, organizations, and agencies over the possible pollution caused by yard care chemicals washing into water bodies, as well as the risks of pesticide exposure to people, pets, and wildlife. Its mission is to inspire Maine people to create and maintain healthy landscapes through ecologically based practices that minimize reliance on water, fertilizer, and pesticides.