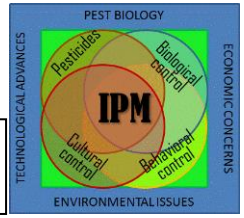
What is Integrated Pest Management?

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a **common-sense process** anyone can use to protect against pests. Every time you swat a fly, pull a weed, select disease-resistant plants for your garden, or judiciously and carefully apply a specific pesticide you're using IPM tactics that reduce the risks to people and the environment. Prevention, monitoring and pest identification are cornerstones.

- **Cultural practices** such as mowing higher to favor grass instead of weeds
- **Physical methods** such as pruning or installing deer fencing
- **Biological controls** such as attracting or conserving beneficial insects and spiders
- **Chemical methods** such as selective and careful use of pesticides.

Learn More about IPM at www.maine.gov/IPMcouncil



How Is IPM related to 'Organic Pest Management'?

Both IPM practitioners and organic producers must take steps to avoid pest-friendly conditions, monitor for and accurately identify pests, and integrate combinations of pest management strategies into the production system. Under IPM, if pesticides are necessary, they are selected based on criteria such as proven effectiveness, low environmental impact, toxicity, and cost. In organic systems, pesticides are usually, but not always, restricted to those whose active ingredients are mineral, microbe or plant-based. However, the use of 'organic' or 'natural' chemicals alone is not organic pest management. IPM and organic methods are processes, not products. Organic producers use IPM practices, and IPM producers can opt to avoid the use of synthetic chemicals.

How Can I Tell if Food or Services are IPM- or Organic-based?

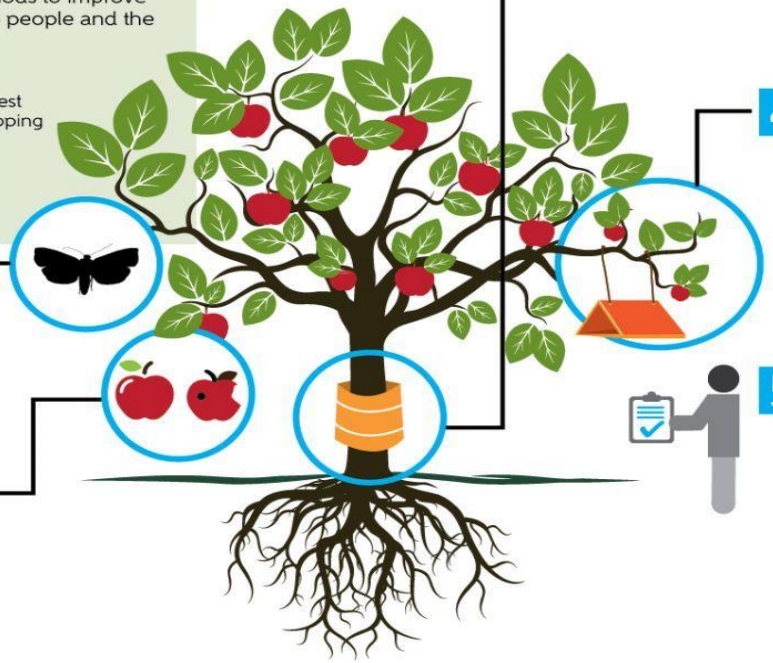
- **Food**
  - Organic: Products meeting the USDA Organic standards are marked with the official USDA Certified Organic label.
  - IPM: Some food processors and retailers require growers to use IPM and verify compliance through on-site audits. In addition, some growers voluntarily participate in auditing programs that include IPM requirements. See https://ipminstitute.org/ipm-eco-labeling/ for more information.
- **Landscape and Turf Care Services.** Certificate programs may offer some assurance that certified professionals are knowledgeable about IPM and/or organic practices. Find a certified service provider in your area by visiting the websites below or talk with local service providers about specific practices used to prevent, monitor and manage pests and then make informed decisions. Here are some resources:
  - Northeast Organic Farmers Association (NOFA) offers an organic land care certificate.
  - Maine Landscape and Nursery Association (MELNA) offers the Maine Certified Landscape Professional and the Maine Certified Nursery Professional certificates which require knowledge about IPM practices.
  - Integrated Pest Management Institute of North America offers the 'GreenShield' IPM certificate program for some pest control services, such as mosquito and tick control.

What is IPM?

Integrated Pest Management is a science-based approach that combines a variety of techniques. By studying their life cycles and how pests interact with the environment, IPM professionals can manage pests with the most current methods to improve management, lower costs, and reduce risks to people and the environment.

IPM tools include:

- Alter surroundings
- Add beneficial insects/ organisms
- Grow plants that resist pests
- Disrupt development of pest
- Prevention of pest problem developing
- Disrupt insect behaviors
- Use pesticides



1 IDENTIFY/ MONITOR

Determine the causal agent and its abundance (contact your local extension agent for help).

2 EVALUATE

The results from monitoring will help to answer the questions: Is the pest causing damage? Do we need to act? As pest numbers increase toward the economic threshold further treatments may be necessary.

3 PREVENT

Some pest problems can be prevented by using resistant plants, planting early, rotating crops, using barriers against climbing pests, sanitation, and sealing cracks in buildings.

4 ACTION

IPM uses multiple tools to reduce pests below an economically damaging level. A careful selection of preventive and curative treatments will reduce reliance on any one tactic and increase likelihood of success.

5 MONITOR

Continue to monitor the pest population. If it remains low or decreases, further treatments may not be necessary, but if it increases and exceeds the action threshold, another IPM tool should be used.

WHERE CAN YOU PRACTICE IPM?

Buildings and Homes:
Inspect, identify pests, keep pests out, clean to deny pests food and water, vacuum, trap, or use low-risk pesticides.

Farms:
Check for pests/pest damage regularly, identify accurately, choose pest-resistant plant varieties, encourage/introduce beneficial insects, time planting to avoid pests, and if needed use low-risk pesticides.

Managed Natural Systems:
Identify the pest and use management options that have minimal risks to pollinators, humans, and pets.

The Entomological Society of America is the largest organization in the world serving the needs of entomologists and other insect scientists. ESA stands as a resource for policymakers and the general public who seek to understand the importance and diversity of earth's most diverse life form—insects. Learn more at www.entsoc.org.

Maine Integrated Pest Management Council

Reducing Risks of Pests and Pesticides

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