



Yakima Public Schools

Annual Notification of Pest Control Policies and Methods

OVERVIEW

Yakima Public Schools has in place an Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM Program) that is an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management. This policy relies on a combination of common sense and scientific practices. This information, in combination with available pest control methods, is used to manage pests by the most economical and beneficial means, and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment. IPM programs take advantage of all pest management options, including, but not limited to, the judicious use of herbicides and pesticides.

PURPOSE

RCW 17.21.415 (2) states “A school shall provide written notification annually or upon enrollment to parents or guardians of students and employees describing the school’s pest control policies and methods, including the posting and notification requirements of this section.”

At a minimum, Washington State Department of Agriculture recommends that schools provide the following information related to pest control policies and methods:

- Acknowledgement of whether an individual school district has a policy or not.
- What pesticides (common name i.e. Grass Getter®) may be applied on a regular basis (more than twice a year)
- Where the district may apply pesticides (e.g. on playfields, in classrooms, cafeteria, etc.)
- If pesticides are applied at schools by commercial applicators or by school employees or a combination of both
- Specific details about the school districts system for advanced (forty-eight hours) notification of pesticide use. Details must include method of notification (e.g. using a blanket notification or some other system).
- Where and how parents may obtain information about pesticide use records as well as the annual summary of pesticide use.
- If a school does not use or contract for the use of pesticides, the annual notification should state this.

In addition, WSDA recommends that the annual notification include information on when the annual summary will be available, and who to contact if an individual requests a summary.

Pre-Application Notification

RCW 17.21.415 (3) states, “A school shall establish a notification system, that as a minimum, notifies interested parents or guardians of students and employees at least forty-eight hours before a pesticide application to a school facility. The notification system shall include posting of the notification in a prominent place in the main office of the school.” Some schools have used their reader boards for this same purpose. The law was written and intended to provide schools some flexibility in establishing a pre-notification system. Schools may choose either a blanket notification (e.g. bulletin sent out to all students and staff) or a registry system. A registry system would notify only those parents or employees who have indicated interest to the school that they want to be notified. If this is the chosen notification system, schools must detail in their annual notification exactly how the system works and how parents, guardians and employees will be contacted (i.e. phone, fax, e-mail).

Annual Summary

RCW 17.21.415 (10) requires that a school shall make the records of all pesticide applications to schools facilities, including an annual summary of the records, readily accessible to interested person.

WSDA believes the intent of the legislation was to include, at a minimum, the following information:

- Product name of all pesticides used during the previous year
- Active ingredient of all pesticides used during the previous school year
- Quantities of each pesticide applied by active ingredient and by amount of tank mix applied; and
- Names of the school(s) where pesticides were applied

WSDA recommends that the districts make the summary readily accessible to all interested parties by at least keeping a copy in the main office of each school. A school may also consider posting the information on a schools own web site if they have one. WSDA is further encouraging schools to include this information as part of their annual notification. The last page of this annual notification will include the annual summary for each individual school site.

Integrated Pest Management Policy

I. IPM Guidelines

- A. The choice of using a pesticide will be based on a review of all other available options and a determination that these options do not offer acceptable control or are not feasible. Non-chemical pest management methods will be implemented whenever possible. It is the policy of Yakima Public Schools to utilize IPM principles to manage pest populations adequately. The full range of alternatives, including taking no action, will be considered.
- B. When it is determined that a pesticide must be used to meet important management goals, the least hazardous material will be chosen. The application of such pesticides will be subject to and compatible with:
 - 1. The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) (7 USC 136 et seq.)
 - 2. The pertinent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations in 40 CFR
 - 3. Pertinent Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Washington Industrial Safety and Health Administration (WISHA) regulations.
 - 4. Pertinent Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) regulations.
 - 5. Washington State Pesticide Control Act RCW 15.53,54 and 15.58 and the Pesticide Application Act RCW 17.21, and Substitute Senate Bill 5533 (also known as the Children's Pesticide "Right to Know" Act)
 - i. These laws and regulations under WAC 16-228 specifically govern pesticide use in the State of Washington.
 - 6. Pertinent local regulations.
 - 7. Approved Yakima Public Schools policies and procedures.

II. IPM Procedures

- A. Injury and Action Levels
 - 1. Injury level, or permissible pest threshold, refers to the point in growth of a vegetation or pest problem where it will cause an unacceptable impact on: public safety, recreation, or health; natural and/or managed ecosystems; aesthetic values; economic injury to desirable plants; or the integrity, function, or service life of facilities.
 - 2. Action level is the level of development of a vegetation or pest population at a specific site at which action must be taken to prevent the population from reaching the injury level.
- B. Selection of optimal strategies. The criteria for selecting treatment tactics and developing pest management strategies include such criteria as:
 - 1. Least disruptive of natural controls;

2. Least hazardous to human health;
 3. Minimize negative impacts to non-target organisms;
 4. Least damaging to the general environment;
 5. Best preserves natural or managed ecosystem;
 6. Most likely to produce long-term reduction in pest control requirements;
 7. Effective implementation is operationally feasible;
 8. Cost-effectiveness in the short and long term
- C. Timing. Involves applying a treatment action during the most vulnerable time in the life cycle of the vegetation or peat with the least impact on natural predators and/or other non-target organisms.
- D. Monitoring. Involves the regular surveying of sites and/or features to understand and identify the location and extent of potential pest management problems.
1. Monitor the site for the presence of pests; critical components of monitoring includes not only acknowledging presence and level of infestation of the pest, but also accurately identifying the pest and acquiring knowledge of requirements and life cycles of both pest and host.
 2. At each district site, this monitoring will be the responsibility of that site's pest manager. The pest manager will be an authorized employee of Yakima Public Schools and could be a certified control operator, the school principal, the custodian, a designated faculty member or an individual under contract to Yakima Public Schools.
 3. The pest manager is the person who observes and evaluates the site, or directs others to do so, and decides what needs to be done to achieve the site pest management.
- E. Record-keeping. Involves maintenance of written records of specific pest management factors observed during monitoring, information on labor and materials used in implementation of the IPM program, results of applied pest management strategies, and comprehensive data on pesticide applications.
1. Records of pesticide use shall be maintained by the Yakima Public Schools Grounds Personnel, who will be Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) licensed pest control operators, to meet the requirements of the state regulatory agency and School Board. Records must be current and accurate and are available by school site for anyone who may request a copy. A fee will be charged to any requesting such copies based on the number of copies requested and the time and expense involved to produce and deliver them.
 2. Pest surveillance data sheets (which record the number of pests or other indicators of pest population) are to be maintained to verify the need for treatments.

- F. Evaluation. Involves analysis of current treatment strategies and prescriptions to help determine the effectiveness of the control program. These records are useful in developing future pest management plans.
- G. Notification. The school district will notify students, parents or guardians, and the school staff of upcoming pesticide treatments forty-eight hours in advance. Notices will be posted in designated areas and sent home with students. In the event of an emergency application, such as a wasp or hornet spray, a written notice will be posted after the application has been made both in the area where the chemical was applied and also in a conspicuous location in the public office.

III. Contracting for Pest Control Services

- A. All pest control services are provided “in-house” by a certified pest control operator.
- B. Alternative pest control contracts will be used to control wood destroying insects and any other pesticide applications that cannot be done during normal school hours or time frames.
- C. Contract specifications will include provisions that ensure a minimum level of contractor expertise, enhance the effectiveness of the work, and reduce the potential for pesticide misuse. “in-house” pest control services would normally include:
 - 1. Control of rodents, both inside the buildings and on its grounds;
 - 2. Cockroaches;
 - 3. All ants, including carpenter ants;
 - 4. Gypsy meal moths;
 - 5. Spiders;
 - 6. Silver fish and termites;
 - 7. All other insects not specifically excluded.
- D. Some pests may require specialized procedures for control. Because of this, evening control work may be necessary to minimize disruption in the school and to minimize pesticide exposure to staff and students. This will usually be accomplished on Friday evenings to allow for an entire weekend for any residue to dissipate. As allowed under Senate Bill 5533, the forty-eight (48) hour pre-application notifications may be exempted when a school facility will not be occupied by students or staff for at least two (2) consecutive days after the product has been applied.
- E. Pest inspections should be planned for daytime to allow for the best communication with occupants and to observe conditions during normal work hours.

IV. Program Goals

- A. Yakima Public Schools will manage vegetation and pests in a manner that will:

1. Utilize an ecological approach;
 2. Minimize the use of pesticides;
 3. Minimize risk to human health and the environment;
 4. Consider community values in establishing standards of maintenance to ensure school grounds meet or exceed the appearance of surrounding residential or commercial areas.
 5. Determine cost-effectiveness using the appropriate life-cycle control of weeds and insects.
- B. Implementation of this policy shall be coordinated with affected District policies and departmental programs.
- C. Affected departments and contractors shall follow the District's pesticide use procedures. To ensure that proper procedures are followed we have directed our custodial staff not to use any herbicides or insecticide products in or around our schools. We have also instructed our teaching and other support staff members in our buildings not to use such pesticide products either. Pesticide inventories are to be stored at our maintenance facility in our locked spill proof storage container. Access to this storage container is tightly controlled to prevent unauthorized access.
- D. Yakima Public Schools will promote the development and implementation of landscape designs that are not only aesthetic and functional, but also provide opportunities for ecological approaches to and cost-effective management of vegetation and pests.
- E. For Records Request contact the Human Resource Department 573-7066 and arrangements will be made to view our written program and record keeping or you may request for a fee to have copies provided.