What is IPM?

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Southwest Technical Resource Center
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History of IPM in Schools in Texas

- Pesticide misapplication in a rural school district prompted legislation



What is IPM?





- A balance between pests and pesticides
- An environmentally sound approach to pest control
- Quality pest control using the least hazardous chemicals and techniques
- Mandatory best management practice for Texas schools



What is IPM?

- A strategy that combines multiple control tactics for pests to ensure that
  - Pest populations are managed at acceptable levels
  - Risk to people, other non-target organisms and the environment is minimized
  - Cost of the program is economically acceptable and practical

Common Pests in Schools

- **Cockroaches:** Skin fragments and feces are the most common cause of asthma in urban youth.
- **Ants:** Fire ant stings cause several human deaths per year.
- **Rodents:** Deadly hantavirus is transmitted by rodent urine and feces.

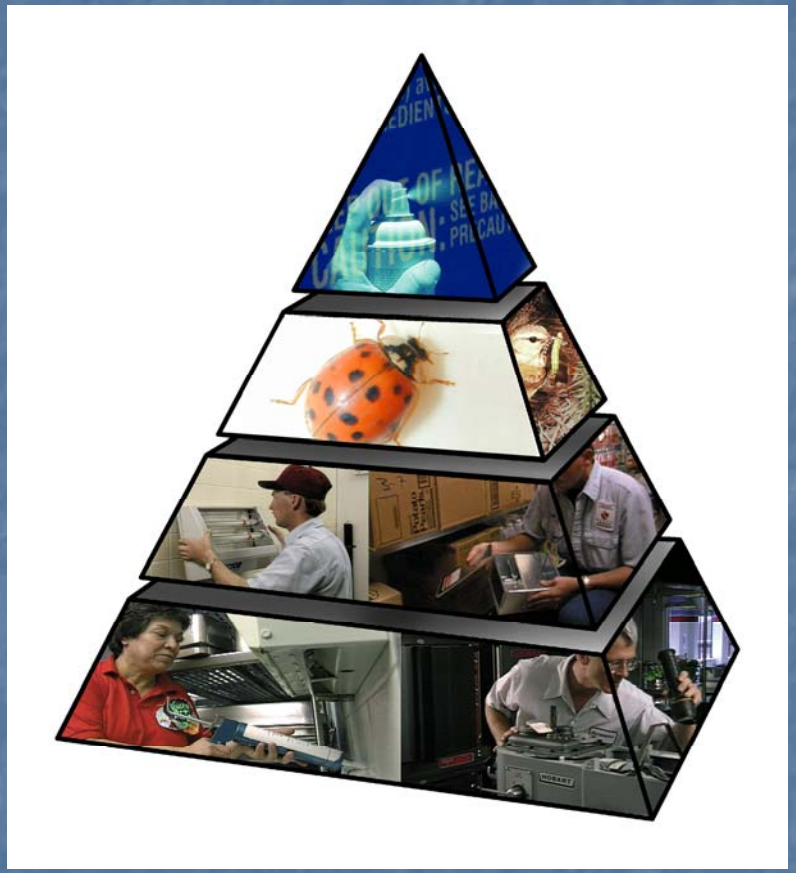
Harmful Effects of Pesticides Caused by Excess Exposure

- **Acute Effects:** Harmful or fatal if swallowed or inhaled.
- **Delayed Effects:** Tumors, cancer, birth defects, blood and nervous system disorders.
- **Allergic Effects:** Asthma and skin, eye and nose irritation.

Ingredients of an IPM Program



The IPM pyramid



Pesticides

Biological controls

Physical / Mechanical controls

Cultural / Sanitation Practices

What Pest's Need to Survive

Water

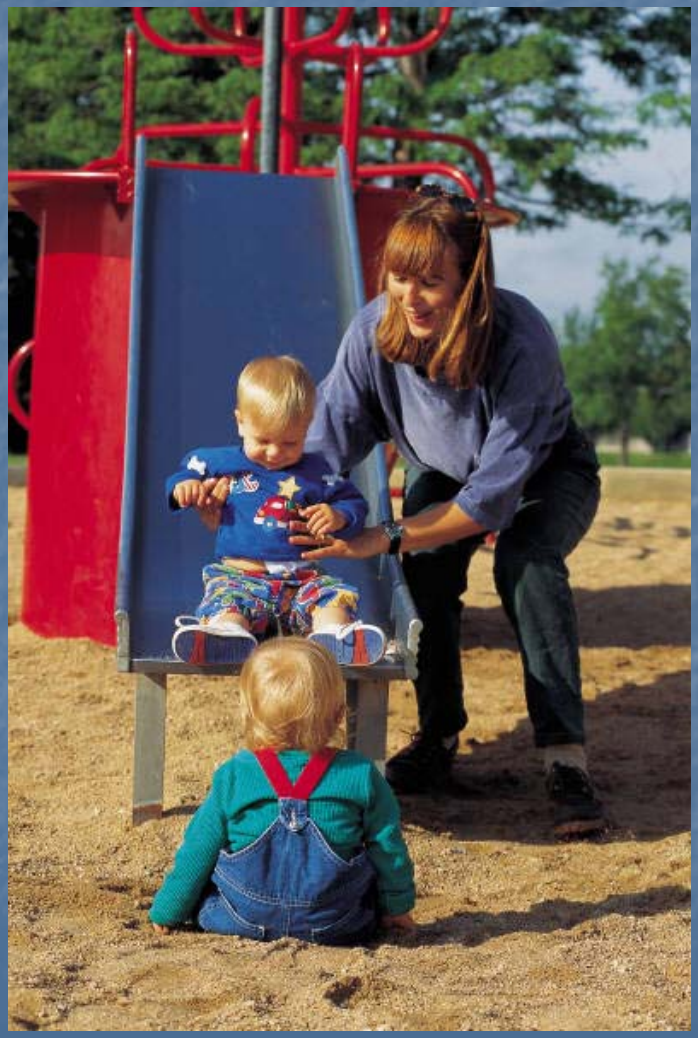


Food

Harborage

IPM & You

- Reduction of pests
- Less pesticide exposure
- Fits well with existing tasks
- Aids with building repairs and design



How you can help

- Never bring in cans of bug spray
- Never supply home remedies as well
- Store supplies in tight fitting containers



What you can do

- Don’t bring Food or Drink in the Classroom.
- Keep personal items like coffee pots and refrigerators to a minimum.
- Keep candies or treats in sealed containers
- Store food type supplies in sealed containers
- Even the tiniest of crumbs is a full meal for roaches or ants.



Help out the custodial staff

- Keep the Classroom as Clean as Possible
- Sanitation, not pesticides, makes the biggest impact on pest populations.
- Cleaning up after any pets in the classroom and after parties is an absolute must.
- Empty soda cans, used paper plates, food wrappings, etc. should be placed in the trash can and then hauled to an outside dumpster before the end of the day.

Taking it to the next level

- Get to Know the IPM Coordinator and Pest Management Staff.
- Communicate your pest sightings to the IPM Coordinator
- Use pest sighting logs when available
- Comply with Pest Control Operators recommendations

Four Points of IPM

1. Prevent pest populations.
2. Apply pesticides only as needed.
3. Select the least hazardous pesticides.
4. Target pesticides to areas not contacted by or accessible to the students, faculty or staff.

1) Prevent Pest Populations



All plumbing should be in good repair.

Proper screening or other devices should be in place around air vents, windows, doors, etc.





Any cracks in walls or around plumbing and electrical conduit should be well sealed.

2) Apply Pesticides As Needed

Treatment is necessary only when pests are present. Proper inspection procedures result in early detection of pest problems.





Sticky traps are great for monitoring pest infestations. Also, specimens can be collected and properly identified.

3) Select the Least Hazardous Material

Sprays create significant risks to children in schools. When it is necessary to treat, use the safest products that will solve the problem.



Many newly developed products are very effective in controlling pests, but are virtually harmless to humans.

4) Target Pesticides Properly



Crack and crevice treatments, such as puffing dusts into wall voids or treating cracks with gel baits drastically reduces exposure potential.

Targeting surfaces with residual sprays places pesticides where children and staff may contact them.



Benefits of IPM

- Reduced pesticide use.
- Healthier learning environment for our children.
- Better long-term control of pests.
- Reduced liability of school districts.

Questions