



Integrated Pest Management

A SMARTER APPROACH TO MANAGING PESTS



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You wouldn't give your child a strong medication or medical treatments without first understanding the sickness. Apply the same thoughtfulness and care when making pest management decisions. This publication helps you to understand how Integrated Pest Management (IPM) works by comparing it to how you should address a medical issue.

TREATING A SICK CHILD

Watch for Symptoms



Watching a child for changes in behavior and symptoms helps to determine when they are sick. Constant monitoring helps you know when something changes, allowing a timely reaction. Tools like thermometers help.

Diagnose



Diagnoses are best made when based on symptoms, thorough research, and scientific data. For some cases, a doctor or expert is needed, other times parents make the diagnosis.

Drugs



When an illness has been identified and confirmed, drugs are often used to help alleviate symptoms or resolve the issue. Use drugs with caution because of the impact of possible side effects.

Using Alternatives



Drugs are not always the answer. Good doctors always recommend other research-based means to improve health. The greatest outcomes come from changing multiple factors, such as changes in habits, diet, etc.

MANAGING PESTS WITH IPM

Monitor

It is essential to observe what pests live in and enter your house, garden, or farm. Using traps or nets are helpful, but nothing compares to time spent looking and watching for changes in the environment and populations.

Identify and Research

Once you find a suspicious plant symptom or insect, learn as much about it as you can. Besides a pest or disease, it's possible that what you are seeing is normal, beneficial, or just physiological stress. Consulting an expert definitely helps.

Pesticides

These are valuable tools but use them only when necessary, because they often have undesirable consequences for both humans and the environment, especially if their application is conducted improperly.

Using Alternatives

Don't expect pesticides to solve all problems. They are just one tool alleviating the situation. Smart IPM management requires long-term strategies, incorporating natural biological control, habitat modification, or other means.

Managing pests, like keeping our bodies healthy, is an ongoing process requiring patience. The IPM approach establishes a mindset for implementing the following elements repeatedly: monitoring, identification, and taking action, then more monitoring to see if the situation has improved. Critical components include accepting that pests are rarely eradicated and learning when to tolerate them and when to take action.

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