

PRINCIPLES OF INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)

Integrated Pest Management is a sustainable approach to managing pests by combining physical, biological, cultural and chemical tools in a way that minimizes economic, health and environmental risk. These IPM principles are the foundation for pest management planning and implementation.

Principles of Integrated Pest Management

- **Understand the site management objectives and establish short- and long-term priorities.** Decide on your site objectives for pest management; use specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-based (SMART) objectives when choosing tools.
- **Prevent species from becoming a pest at your site.** Prevention is the first line of defense against any pest species.
- **Identify and monitor the pest species: know the life history and the conditions that support the pest(s).**
- **Understand the physical (air, water, food, shelter, temperature, and light) and biological factors that affect the number and distribution of pests and any natural enemies.** Conserve natural enemies when implementing any strategy
- **Build partnerships and consensus with stakeholders, such as communities and decision-makers.**
- **Review available tools and best management practices (BMP) for pest management.** Tools and strategies can include: 1) no action, 2) physical (manual and mechanical), 3) cultural, 4) biological, and 5) chemicals.
- **Establish the “Action Thresholds” at which you will take a management action** to control the pest population.
- **Obtain approval, define responsibilities, and implement preventive and BMPs and control treatments, in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, policies and the Integrated Pest Management Plan.**
- **Practice Adaptive Management.** Evaluate results of implemented management strategies through authorized monitoring; determine if objectives have been achieved, and modify strategies, if necessary.
- **Maintain Written Records.** Document decisions and report treatments implemented and monitoring results.
- **Outreach and Education.** Inform staff of the pest management issues in and around the site, and prepare informative materials for outreach to visitors, if appropriate.