
INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

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Santa Clara County's Contribution to a Sustainable & Healthy Environment

This newsletter is dedicated to the enthusiastic interest and creative ideas of people across the County organizations that are concerned about environmental health. That includes you; your participation is a key element in sustainable development and environmental protection – a gift of health to the future generations.

County Supervisor Liz Kniss, initiated discussion of Integrated Pest Management with the Board of Supervisors, resulting in an ordinance that sets out a plan of action for County government. The County looks forward to participating on a growing team of participants.

With the departure of winter & onset of spring, another fun vacation time is on the horizon; our children are preparing themselves for upcoming final exams and dreaming of a nice summer vacation. As we prepare ourselves for upcoming festivities and joyful times, you

Continued on page 2

Working Together – It's a Team Approach

Prevention is simpler than the correction of most pest control problems. Pest proofing of building physically to deny entrance to pests is of first importance. Elimination of harborages & breeding areas is the second most important function of facility management.

Cleanliness and good housekeeping is the team approach that can be practiced by tenants, denying food and attraction, and compelling the pest to live somewhere else.

Not all the bugs that “BUG” you are the “PESTS”. Getting to know them alleviates anxiety & creates fascination towards nature, allowing choices to live and let others live, and to be comfortable with surroundings. Your County IPM Coordinator will lead you to the

“WONDERFUL WORLD OF BUGS THAT DON'T BUG YOU”

Who doesn't know about **butter+flies**? We all want to play with them. Removing the butter, leaving only “flies” changes the whole perception instead of feeling playful, we feel annoyed and want to get rid of a pest. Well, here is some helpful information about how you can help prevent flies from breeding in your environment.

Who doesn't like flowers in vases and potted greens in the office? It gives us the feeling of being out of the box, relaxed, and being loved. **Taking care of cut flowers and potted greens can prevent sharing with the bugs that bug you.** Bugs love to feed on fungus that grows inside the cut flower vases and potted greens. If conditions are favorable, it does not take much time for them to over take our pleasant relationship with beautifully colored flowers and

Continued on page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 SCC's Contribution to a Sustainable & Healthy Environment
- 1 Working Together – It's a Team Approach
- 2 Hiring Qualified Pest Management Professionals
- 2 Pesticide Use Reduction
- 3 IPM Awareness, Information & Education
- A Beginning of New Era at County Parks
- 4 Eliminating Hazardous Pesticides

know that Santa Clara County has taken an important step forward to make our future vacations safer & healthier, and to protect & preserve a sustainable & healthy environment by adopting the Integrated Pest Management & Pesticide Use Ordinance.

One of the most encouraging environmental developments of recent years is the trend toward prevention instead of reaction in controlling pest.

Integrated Pest Management refers to proactive rather than reactive pest control with thorough inspections of facilities/sites, possible identification of pests, habitat modification through new designs or modification of existing systems, improvements in sanitation, housekeeping and other conducive conditions and limitations to harborage & survival. IPM stresses progression from understanding the pests, to adopting non-chemical approaches (physical, mechanical or cultural methods) to resolve problems and make judicious decisions, with chemical control as last resort.

There is no such thing as a "safe chemical". It is the inherent property of a chemical to be toxic at a certain level. We need to understand and learn to respect this toxic character of chemicals and use them with extreme caution, and only as a last resort, in order to have the least impact on the environment.

Pesticides are chemical agents used to kill or control undesired insects, weeds, rodents, fungi, bacteria, or other organisms. The chemicals, which were designed to protect our food supplies, health & environment, can, cause us harm.

Santa Clara County departments are developing IPM implementation plans, working document that will help implement the transformation begun by adopting the IPM ordinance. The County IPM Coordinator is also excited and gearing up with a "helping hand".

Traveling through the maze of 11th floor County Executive office, Richard Wittenberg, the former County Executive reminded the County IPM Coordinator "Make sure there are no chemicals used to kill bugs".

We take this challenge, and encourage you to do the same making the commitment to a sustainable & healthy environment.

Hiring qualified pest management professionals

"Pest Control, Elimination or Eradication" has evolved into "Pest Management". Pesticide applicators of 1950's-1980's have been challenged to work towards managing the world of bugs a with non chemical approach. This requires immense understanding of pest biology, habitat, behavior, as well as the socio-economic impact of pests on human health, welfare and environment.

Broad-spectrum application of pesticides is giving way to target precision application as a last resort. Professional pest management consultants, who incorporate a non-chemical approach into their practice, will promote this.

The Santa Clara County's County IPM Coordinator has worked with an advisory group and departments to create comprehensive administrative guidelines regarding contract IPM services for all County owned buildings & landscape. Since the County also rents or leases buildings and is not directly involved in the facility management, we will encourage facility management groups/landlords to adopt IPM practices, wherever possible.

Pesticide Use Reduction

The County's is also developing a pesticide use relational database that will collect pesticide use data for each application providing information for IPM analytical purposes and economic studies, providing location, conditions & target specific information to all concerned.

The database will be used by pesticide applicators to enter the information at the time of application. The start up database will allow multiple query options so that concerned groups get the information most helpful to their purpose or reporting formats. The future IPM applications will be an interactive, web-based application allowing facility managers to make alternative choices, to prepare budgets with precise IPM performance, and to focus key resources on alternatives to products that may create risk chronic exposure. Focus will be on allowing a balanced approach.

IPM AWARENESS, INFORMATION & EDUCATION

With the full support of the Board of Supervisors & the County Executive, County Staff is moving quickly to develop an interactive IPM awareness, technical information & educational tools. We will soon be launching our services on the County Web.

We are "Training the Trainer", making sure Department IPM Coordinators, Facility Managers and Pesticide Applicators are aware of their roles and responsibilities.

Employee IPM Awareness will be heightened through the County's Wellness Fair and the Annual Safety Seminar.

Field/Site surveys are becoming routine to assist departments in specific IPM projects. The California Ground Squirrel is a significant challenge, and Argentine ants are not far behind. Integrated Vegetation Management for our roads right of ways, airports & parks is a long term IPM objective emphasizing road safety, as well as preservation of the environment.

BEGINNING A NEW ERA AT COUNTY PARKS

On Earth Day April 22, 2003, Department of Parks & Recreation will launch a promising IPM project at Ed Levin Park. Physical, mechanical, biological & least toxic organic pesticides will be set for trials/demonstration. The project is intended to increase confidence in new pest management protocols for the future. Park Staff is excited to be implementing the pilot, & confident that will be successful in its mission.

Working together, we will create a sustainable ecosystem - "A Nature's Meadow", in which to live, work, play & grow with others.

Working Together, we can reach an informed consensus, based on science & common sense, to ensure protection of our health, our safety & our environment.

potted greens.

I encourage you to help yourself and become an IPM practitioner & Team Member by observing the following:

1. Remember that banana, orange & apple peels that you just ate in your office, while you were hungry and could not afford the time to go to the cafeteria. Please throw food waste in the designated waste containers to ensure daily pick up and disposal.
2. Wipe up crumbs and clean up spills before you leave a staff lounge, kitchen, or your office. Before leaving for the day, wash coffee cups and other dishes.



3. Rinse out soda cans and other recyclables.

What can you do to be IPM TEAM MEMBER?

4. If you snack after trash containers have been emptied for the day, take food scraps home with you.
5. Remove clutter.
6. Keep your lunch and all snacks in tightly closed containers or in the fridge. Plastic bags don't always discourage pests.
7. Don't use cardboard boxes for long-term food storage.
8. Report water leaks; pests need water to survive.
9. Keep outside doors & windows closed, if possible. Pests commonly enter the easy way!
10. Follow recommendations from your Pest Control Technician. They need your help to provide you a pest & pesticide free environment.

IPM TIPS- WEEDS & YOUR GARDEN

PREPARE GARDEN BED CAREFULLY

If you're creating a new bed on top of established turf, try a method that is easy but requires patience. Lay down two or more layers of heavy cardboard or 10-20 layers of newspaper. The paper will block most weeds from emerging through the soil; those that do will be weakened by the effort.

Now pile organic matter onto the paper. Put the coarsest on the bottom. For the top few inches, use compost mixed with topsoil. In weedy areas, the deeper the bed, the better! You can plant into this bed.

BLOCK WEEDS WITH MULCH

A 4-inch thick layer of shredded bark, straw, leaves, wood chips, or several other organic choices OR plastic or black landscape fabric can prevent weed seeds from germinating.

For assistance on healthy gardening questions contact your Master Gardener Coordinator at Cooperative Extension Office of University of California at 408-299-2638

For More Information about IPM, Contact:

Naresh.Duggal@ceo.co.santa-clara.ca.us

Tel: 408-299-5159 Fax: 408-295-1613

County IPM Coordinator

Santa Clara County, Office of the County Executive

East Wing 11th Floor

70, West Hedding Street,

San Jose, CA 95110

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Eliminating Hazardous Pesticides

One of the goals of the County's IPM program is to create approved lists of pesticides. A first step is evaluation of all pesticides using stringent screening criteria. The County has completed this process. This will eliminate the use of pesticides products that are highly toxic chemicals that pose immediate danger to the environment due to its toxicity and exposure, cholinesterase inhibitors, carcinogens, reproductive & developmental toxins, endocrine disruptors, ground water contaminants, toxic air contaminants.

"Our goal is to target pesticide use reduction through proven methods, building confidence at all levels of IPM Management."

An approved list of pesticide will evolve out of this screening process; however, even approved pesticides will be used only as last resort. The County IPM Coordinator is working closely with departments to find and practice alternatives to pesticides. The approach will be scientific, factual, piloted through demonstration & gradually expanded. ❖

