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# ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet

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WD-SP-3

2018

## Integrated Pest Management: An Alternative to Pesticides

### How safe are Pesticides?

For years, pest control has meant the use of chemicals. When used properly, pesticides can be a safe and effective means of pest control. Misuse of chemical pesticides, however, can harm wildlife, contaminate water and soil, and harm people. Proper use of pesticides used in conjunction with other methods of pest control can minimize these risks.

### Integrated Pest Management: The Common Sense Approach

To help prevent over population of lawn and garden pests, consider using *Integrated Pest Management* (IPM). IPM is a common sense pest control plan that has been practiced for centuries. The purpose of IPM is to get the best long-term results with the least disruption of the environment. IPM involves the carefully managed use of three different pest control tactics: biological, cultural, and chemical. Biological control means using natural enemies of the pest to control their population, such as the use of lady bugs to control aphids. Cultural or horticultural control involves methods of making less favorable conditions for pests, such as mowing your grass high to shade out weeds, or using different turf seed mixes to resist a variety of lawn pests (See [WD-SP-2](#) for proper lawn care techniques).

IPM is regarded as a highly effective approach to pest control that minimizes the use of pesticides. The use of IPM requires a sophisticated understanding of the ecosystem of turf and the available pest control tactics. Detailed information regarding IPM is available from the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Office, 59 College Road, Taylor Hall, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824; (603) 862-1520; <https://extension.unh.edu/programs/integrated-pest-management-ipm>

### Pesticides

Chemical pesticides can be used effectively and safely but their misuse can harm beneficial organisms as well as contaminate ground and surface waters. Beyond 50 feet from the [reference line](#), chemicals can be applied as necessary and according to manufacture guidelines. Within 50 feet of the reference line of [public waters](#), but no closer than 25 feet, chemicals can **only** be applied by horticultural professionals who have a pesticide application license issued by the NH Department of Agriculture.

### For more information

Contact the Shoreland Program by calling (603) 271-2147, sending an email to [lrn@des.nh.gov](mailto:lrn@des.nh.gov), or visiting <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/cspa/index.htm>.