

ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



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SP-3 2020

Pesticide Use Within the Protected Shoreland

For many people, pest control on their lawn, garden, or ornamental plants means the use of pesticides. However, simply applying pesticides does not always work and the misuse of pesticides can harm wildlife, contaminate water and soil, and cause illnesses. Moreover, not all insects or weeds require control as most species are harmless.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT: THE COMMON SENSE APPROACH

To help prevent over population of pests before they cause damage to lawn and gardens, consider using an *Integrated Pest Management (IPM)* approach rather than using pesticides as a first recourse. IPM involves the carefully managed use of different pest control tactics, such as a combination of biological, chemical, cultural, genetic, and mechanical/physical control measures.

Biological control means using natural enemies of the pest to control their population, such as the use of **ladybugs to control aphids** (Figure 1). **Chemical control** is the use of **organic or synthetic pesticides** to control pests. **Cultural control** involves making less favorable conditions for pests, such as mowing your grass high to shade out sun-loving weeds. **Genetic control** involves selecting varieties of plants that resist specific pest problems. For example, using turf seed mixes that resist a variety of lawn pests is a type of genetic control measure. Finally, **mechanical/physical control** employs methods or devices that trap or kill pests mechanically, or prevent their entry into an area. A non-chemical trap that kills insects is an example of a mechanical control. A deer fence that prevents deer from eating garden plants is a physical control measure.



Figure 1 - Ladybugs can be used to control aphids.

The purpose of IPM is to get the best long-term results with the least disruption to the environment. IPM is regarded as a highly effective approach to pest control that minimizes the use of pesticides. The use of IPM requires an understanding of the ecosystem of turf and other landscaped areas and pest control tactics. Detailed information regarding IPM is available from the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension (UNHCE).

PESTICIDES

Pesticides are only one part of IPM. They can be used effectively and safely but their misuse can harm beneficial organisms, such as honey bees, as well as contaminate ground and surface waters. Beyond 50 feet from the reference line of public waters, pesticides can be applied as necessary and according to manufacture guidelines. Within 50 feet of the reference line, pesticides can **only** be applied by horticultural professionals who have a pesticide application license issued by the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on regulations within the protected shoreland, please visit www.des.nh.gov. You may also contact the Wetlands Bureau by phone at (603) 271-2147, via email at shoreland@des.nh.gov, or by mail at 29 Hazen Drive; P.O. Box 95 Concord, NH 03302-0095. For more information regarding NH pests and IPM, visit the UNHCE website.