

SCHOOL IPM TOOL KIT

GROUNDS MANAGERS AND LANDSCAPERS CHECKLIST

This checklist will assist you in implementing an integrated pest management (IPM) program for grounds. IPM can provide long-term, economical pest control; and minimize the risk to people and the environment, by addressing and correcting the root causes of pest problems. IPM combines pest prevention, mechanical, cultural and physical pest control methods, and the appropriate use of pesticides to achieve its goals.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Check the appropriate “yes” or “no” boxes.
- Write any items needing attention the places provided at the end of each section.
- Return completed checklist to the IPM coordinator.

NAME: _____

AREA: : _____

SCHOOL: _____

DATE COMPLETED: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

Landscapes		
GENERAL	yes	no
Establish “low maintenance” and “high maintenance” zones.		
Regularly scout grounds for possible pests.		
Monitor landscape plants for insects, disease and abiotic problems.		
PLANT SELECTION		
Develop and maintain a list of approved plants for the school.		
Use plants that are pest resistant, drought resistant, native, or non-invasive from similar climates, for new landscaping.		
Use plants that shed a minimum of seeds and fruits.		
Consider options of low-maintenance ground covers able to out-compete weeds in troublesome areas.		
PRUNING AND MAINTENANCE		
Keep bark and wood chips more than 12 inches from building.		
Where possible, trim trees and shrubs to have at least 12 inches of clearance between the ground and foliage and more than 12 inches from foliage to building .		
Trim tree limbs to at least 6 feet (10 feet if squirrels are a problem) away from building and roof.		
Remove climbing vines from exterior walls.		
Promptly remove leaves and other clutter that accumulate along foundations and retaining walls.		
Keep walls and fence lines free from weeds and debris that might provide pest shelter.		
Pick up and dispose of fallen seeds and fruit from ornamental plantings.		
Grade the soil and pavement that is adjacent to buildings and retaining walls away from buildings. Make sure that drainage is adequate to account for roof and pavement runoff, sprinkler systems, down spouts, etc.		
Reduce space between ornamental plants to shade out soil and reduce weed seed germination.		
HARDSCAPES		
Seal cracks in sidewalks and blacktop with flexible caulking or sealers.		
Keep debris and loose soil out of hardscape areas so they don’t provide habitat for weed germination.		
Install barrier along edge of hardscape to keep grass from intruding into edges of hardscape.		
Regularly inspect playgrounds and equipment for wasp activity.		
PESTICIDE USE ON SCHOOL GROUNDS		
When more than one option exists, use pesticides and application methods with the least chance of exposure.		
Store pesticides in accord with applicable state and federal laws.		
Consider expected use of outdoor areas and follow directions for the reentry time span specified on the pesticide label.		
The school’s emergency management plans has clear action points for the chance event of a pesticide spill or exposure situation.		

Action Needed:

Completed (date/initials)

Waste Management		
	yes	no
There are an adequate number of trash receptacles in outdoor dining areas.		
Keep lids closed on outdoor trash receptacles. They are kept clean and emptied daily.		
Trash receptacles with an open design, such as wire mesh, have openings less than 1/4" in diameter .		
Trash receptacles are elevated off the ground.		
Rinse empty beverage containers, keep them in tightly sealed pest-proof containers, and remove daily.		
Regularly inspect food concession buildings (snack shacks). They are kept clean, with all food sealed in pest-proof containers.		

Action Needed:

Completed (date/initials)

Water management		
	yes	no
Drain any water that pools anywhere on school grounds.		
Inspect irrigation system to make sure that water is appropriate for plantings.		
Regularly clean and repair gutters and drainpipes.		
Do not use vehicle tires that may collect water or provide nesting sites for wasps and other pests.		

Action Needed:

Completed (date/initials)

Additional comments and observations:

COMMON PEST PROBLEMS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

Stinging insects

- Paper wasps (European)
- Yellowjackets
- Bald-faced hornets
- Occasional stinging pests: sand wasps, cicada killers, solitary bees, bees

Turf

Insects

- Clover mites
- Billbugs and white grubs
- Sodworms and cutworms

Diseases

- Ascochyta leaf blight
- Dollar spot
- Necrotic leaf spot

Abiotic stresses

- Improper plantings
- Irrigation/water stress
- Nutrient deficiencies
- Herbicide/chemical injury
- Winter/summer sun damage
- Plant injury from construction
- **Shade/tree root competition
- **Foraging animal damage

Landscapes

Insects

- Aphids
- Shade tree borers
- Scales

Diseases

- Aspen and poplar leaf spot
- Bacterial wetwood
- Honeylocust diseases
- Leaf scorch
- Mistletoe
- Sycamore anthracnose

Abiotic stresses

- Improper plantings
- Irrigation/water stress
- Nutrient deficiencies
- Herbicide/chemical injury
- Winter/summer sun damage
- Plant injury from construction

Animals

- Voles
- Gophers
- Prairie dogs