

Healthy Colorado Schools

School IPM Newsletter– July 2012

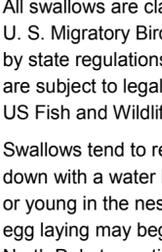
working with you to create a safe and healthy environment

YOUTUBE Videos

We have posted twelve 1 – 2 minute videos on YouTube on how to do Integrated Pest Management in schools. Check out What is School IPM at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6TSJaDtqAeY>

SWALLOWS

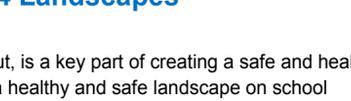
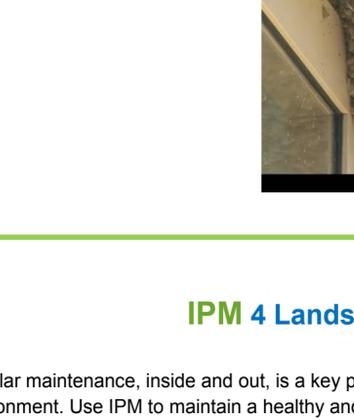


We have had several reports of swallows nesting in outbuildings and concession stands on school grounds. Remember that swallows are beneficial – they eat insects. Regular cleaning of bird droppings with soap and water should eliminate concerns about disease.

All swallows are classified as migratory insectivorous birds under the U. S. Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. Swallows are also protected by state regulations. As a result, certain activities affecting swallows are subject to legal restrictions. A depredation permit issued by the US Fish and Wildlife Service may be required to remove swallow nests.

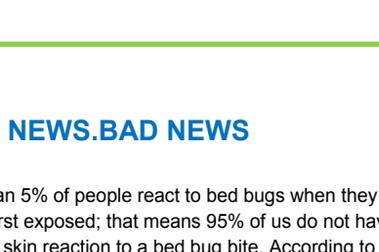
Swallows tend to return to previous nesting sites. You can wash nests down with a water hose or knock down with a pole – if there are no eggs or young in the nest. However, right now there probably are. In Texas, egg laying may begin as early as late March to early April, while in North Dakota nesting may not start until early to mid-June.

Exclusion is the most permanent solution – prevent them from building or returning to their nests. Plastic net or poultry wire can provide a physical barrier between swallows and a nest site.



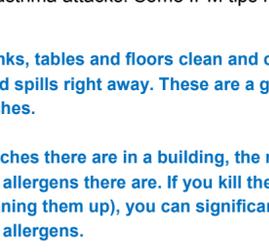
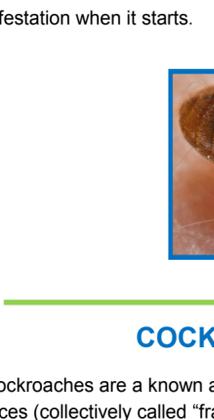
IPM 4 Landscapes

Regular maintenance, inside and out, is a key part of creating a safe and healthy environment. Use IPM to maintain a healthy and safe landscape on school grounds. Remember that the need for pesticides is reduced by keeping plants healthy, so insects and disease organisms don't live there.



GOOD NEWS.BAD NEWS

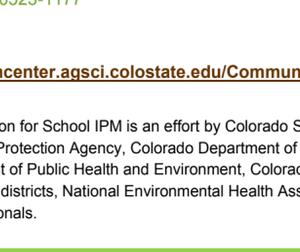
The good news is that less than 5% of people react to bed bugs when they are first exposed; that means 95% of us do not have a skin reaction to a bed bug bite. According to Ronald Harrison from Orkin LLC, when Orkin employees go for training, they have the opportunity to feed bed bugs on themselves. A brave 1,400 volunteers have signed up and thus supplied data on human reactions to bed bug bites. Only 3.8% reacted right away! Only 1.1% showed a reaction after four days or more. The bad news is that you may have been bitten and don't know it. We don't know when or how sensitivity develops, but Orkin's data adds to the argument that you can't rely on skin reactions to detect a bed bug infestation when it starts.



COCKROACHES & ASTHMA

Cockroaches are a known asthma trigger because of proteins in their skin and feces (collectively called "frass"). Both on the cockroach and for a few months after the roach dies, poops, or sheds the skin, these protein "allergens" can get in the air and trigger asthma attacks. Some IPM tips for reducing cockroach allergens include:

- **Keep counters, sinks, tables and floors clean and clutter-free. Clean up any crumbs and spills right away. These are a great source of food and water for roaches.**
- **The more cockroaches there are in a building, the more potentially asthma-triggering allergens there are. If you kill the cockroaches (even without cleaning them up), you can significantly reduce the asthma-triggering allergens.**
- **Store any food or food products (like pasta or rice used for art projects) in airtight containers with lids.**
- **Seal cracks or openings around or inside cabinets.**



For more information contact:

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The Colorado Coalition for School IPM is an effort by Colorado State University, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado Department of Education, school districts, National Environmental Health Association and private pest control professionals.