

Oregon Joins States with School IPM Mandates

I recently visited Oregon to learn more about their efforts to implement Integrated Pest Management in all private and public K-12 schools and community colleges. The new Oregon law goes into effect July 1, 2012. Colorado does not have any legislation mandating school IPM.

The Oregon law requires districts to develop an IPM plan; Oregon State University developed a model IPM plan that helps schools meet the mandate including protocols for regular monitoring and inspections to detect pests and notification of pesticide applications. They are also required to designate an IPM coordinator. Pesticide application records must be kept for four years, including copies of product labels and MSDS, product name and EPA registration number, amount used and location.

Schools may only use "low-impact" pesticides, those which do not have a "Danger" or "Warning" signal word indicating higher toxicity to mammals, and are not classified as a known or probable human carcinogen by US EPA. Additionally, only properly licensed pesticide applicators are allowed to apply pesticides in schools.

Initiating a required monitoring program will be a big change for many schools, says Tim Stock, OSU school IPM coordinator, but will pay off in the long run. The use of sticky traps in kitchens, cafeterias and other pest vulnerable areas provides vital information about the type and amount of pests in each area.

A number of school districts meet or exceed the new mandate. Vonnie Good, environmental safety specialist for Salem-Keizer School District, introduced IPM to her district more than ten years ago. According to Good, IPM was a logical choice because, "We wanted to keep pesticides out of the environment, but we also wanted to keep the pests out." She fears staffing cuts will lead to challenges. "When you have a lot of buildings to service, reduced man power becomes a big problem," says Good. Salem-Keizer SD encompasses 40,000 students in 70 schools and has participated in a USDA E-IPM-funded pilot project with OSU for the past two years.

According to Stock, "With or without laws, it's important to have model districts to show what a successful IPM program looks like." He hopes to start new pilots in smaller districts in the near future. "Many districts in our state have three or fewer schools," says Stock. "They will implement IPM differently than larger schools."

IPM, or Integrated Pest Management, helps maintain a safe and healthy environment for students and staff and reduces exposure to potentially harmful chemicals. IPM emphasizes long-term prevention of pest problems through good sanitation in kitchens and garbage areas; physical barriers, such as screens and caulk, to keep pests out of buildings; baits or traps to prevent or eliminate emerging problems; and consideration of all management options.

Pests to watch out for

Western yellowjacket



Yellowjackets are estimated to cause 95% of the 'bee stings' in Colorado. Trapping is an effective way to reduce yellowjacket problems.

To be successful, trapping must be an ongoing effort starting in spring; there is a 30- to 45-day period when new queens first emerge before they build nests. Trapping queens during this period has the potential to provide an overall reduction in the yellowjacket population for the season. Continue trapping through summer and fall.

The more traps put out in spring on an area wide basis to trap queens, the greater the likelihood of reducing nests later in the summer. Usually one trap per acre is adequate in spring; in fall, more traps might be necessary to trap scavenging wasps, depending on the size of the population.



Termite damage

Termites are the most destructive insect pests of wood, damaging homes and other wooden structures. In nature, termites break down dead wood that accumulates in and on the soil, returning humus to the soil.

While our native species of termite, the arid lands subterranean termite, usually doesn't cause many problems, the introduced eastern subterranean termite is reported to be increasing along the Front Range. There is also a small area in Grand Junction affected by drywood termites which require different management tactics.

Use preventive measures to protect wooden structures against the eastern subterranean termite. These termites usually maintain contact with the soil in which the main nest is found. They construct earthen tubes from the nest to the food source. There should be no contact between wood and the soil. Remove all waste wood from the building site. Move or cap shut with reinforced concrete any cinder blocks, bricks or other hollow masonry in contact with wood and soil. Seal any crack or gap in the foundation or plumbing; these are potential points of entry.

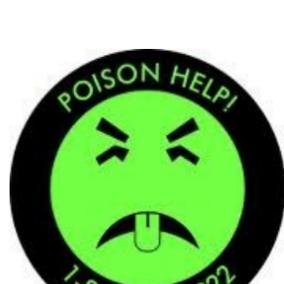
If an infestation is discovered, don't panic. In addition to conventional chemical barrier treatments, existing infestations can be eliminated using a combination of bait stations and low toxicity termiticides. Locate the point of entry and contact a reliable pest control operator. Once an existing infestation has been treated and eliminated, identify and correct conditions in the structure that may have contributed to the problem.

New programs and resources

The Colorado School IPM Coalition has added childcare and early education facilities to our efforts. The new pilot program inspected three facilities this month.

In cooperation with the Colorado Environmental Pesticide Education Program, materials are available from our office to help childcare providers, teachers and parents avoid pesticide poisoning. For example, [Mr. Yuk](#) stickers can be placed on all chemicals that have the potential to poison you, your family, students and co-workers.

Childcare providers have a lot to do; pest management can be just another thing on an already full plate. US EPA launched a resource directory for childcare providers. It includes fact sheets, trainings, and assessment tools on asthma, chemical hazards, green cleaning and IPM. The directory links to numerous sources including *Guidelines for IPM for Pest Management Contracts in Childcare Centers* from Penn State University which includes "setting up an IPM program in eight steps" and "three questions to ensure you are receiving IPM services." Another fact sheet, *Pesticides and Their Impact on Children: Key Facts and Talking Points*, explains the dangers of pesticide poisoning in young children.



COLORADO SCHOOL IPM PROGRAM
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1177
970-491-1377

Who's involved? Colorado State University, Colorado Department of Education, Colorado Department of Agriculture, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, school districts, National Environmental Health Association and private pest control applicators all contribute to this program.