

# Integrated Pest Management

## How it all ties together

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, integrated pest management (IPM) is the implementation of diverse methods of pest controls, paired with monitoring to reduce unnecessary pesticide applications (1). The fundamental principles of this national IPM roadmap used by the Federal Government focus on improving economic benefits, reducing potential human health risks and reducing unreasonable adverse environmental effects from pests and the use of pest management practices (1). To benefit pollinators and your yard, consider incorporating the following management techniques:

- Healthy plants and native plants are less susceptible to pests like weeds and harmful organisms. With fewer weeds and other pests living in your yard, you can apply less pesticides and chemicals and still maintain a healthy yard. Weeds, pests and diseases are usually the result of poor growing conditions and unhealthy plants, not the cause of them. (2)
  - When purchasing plants for your yard, select disease- and pest-resistant plant varieties.
- Reduce or eliminate pesticide use in your yard. If you choose to use pesticides, use the most targeted, reduced-risk product available.
  - Avoid systemic insecticides and neonicotinoid pesticides.
  - As an alternative to chemicals, use non-chemical methods of pest control such as physically removing weeds and covering planting areas with two to three inches of mulch.



- Turfgrass is poor habitat for pollinators. With more yard space dedicated to flowers and other plants, the reduced lawn size will require less mowing and watering, which will save you time and money in the long run.
  - Conserve water and reduce fossil fuel use from mowing by converting grassy areas to planted areas.
  - Reduce lawn mowing to every two to three weeks to benefit ground nesting pollinators.
    - i. You can even leave grass clippings on your lawn since they provide important moisture and nutrients.
- Plant a rain garden. Rain gardens reduce runoff and attract pollinators.
  - Include a variety of native plants in your rain garden.
  - Once the plants in your rain garden are established, they will thrive with minimal care.
  - The City of East Lansing undertakes and promotes efforts to reduce stormwater pollution and prevent it from entering our storm sewers, drainage ways, rivers and streams. By planting a rain garden, you can reduce runoff, prevent pollution from entering our waterways, and provide food and habitat for pollinators. (3)

Overall, IPM involves using methods of pest control that are the least disruptive to human health and the environment (2). Looking at all areas of yard care and considering how they impact each other will help you maintain a beautiful and healthy yard that benefits human health and environmental health and is economically feasible.

### Resources Used in This Document:

1) Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM), National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
<https://nifa.usda.gov/program/integrated-pest-management-program-ipm>

2) Controlling Garden Pests, Washtenaw County  
<https://www.a2gov.org/departments/systems-planning/planning-areas/water-resources/Documents/IPM-ControllingGardenPests.pdf>

3) Climate Sustainability Plan, City of East Lansing  
<https://www.cityofeastlansing.com/DocumentCenter/View/635/City-of-East-Lansing-Climate-Sustainability-Plan-PDF?bidId=>

