

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)

There are ways to use pesticides alongside other measures to improve safety and efficacy. Integrated pest management (IPM) is an environmentally sensitive way of managing pests. Learn about IPM, and read some case studies with examples of how it can be used.

IPM PRACTICES INCLUDE:

- forward planning
- regular monitoring
- timely decision-making

IPM CONTROL METHODS INCLUDE

- cultural methods – they change the conditions to make them less favourable for pests, such as adjusting planting location or timing or crop rotation and cultivation techniques which expose pests to predation or destroy their food, shelter and breeding habitats.
- physical methods – they prevent pests from entering the area using methods such as barriers and traps, or physically remove them.
- genetic methods – these methods select pest resistant varieties developed by classical breeding or via genetic engineering.
- biological methods – they use predators, parasites or microbial pathogens to suppress pests.

- chemical methods – they use substances to kill or repel pests, selecting the least toxic options first and applying them only when needed instead of, for example, regular preventative spraying.
- regulatory methods – they prevent the entry or spread of pests using quarantine regulations and restrict the movement of materials including crops and livestock.

IPM can be applied in many settings, such as on farms; in homes, gardens, workplaces and natural spaces such as national parks; and in schools.

IPM in homes and buildings such as schools, hospitals and offices usually focuses on rodents and common insects such as cockroaches, ants, termites and lice.

**CONTACT ORGANIX SOLUTIONZ TO
DISCUSS HOW WE CAN IMPLEMENT A
SUITABLE IPM FOR YOU.**

**CALL 0404454503
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A FOUR-TIERED APPROACH TO PRACTICING IPM:

1. Set action thresholds

An action threshold is a point at which pest populations or environmental conditions indicate action must be taken to prevent the pest from becoming an economic or environmental threat. Seeing a single pest does not always mean control is needed.

2. Monitor and identify pests

Identifying pests accurately and monitoring their population and behaviour helps IPM practitioners detect when action thresholds have been reached and decide on appropriate control methods. Many weeds and insects that are considered pests are actually harmless, or even beneficial, and do not need to be controlled. Monitoring and identification reduces the risks of using the wrong type of pesticide, or using pesticides when other strategies will be more effective.

3. Prevent pests from becoming a threat

Pests can be prevented from becoming a threat with minimal or no risk to people or the environment. Prevention can be highly effective and cost-efficient. Prevention methods include

- in agriculture, selecting pest-resistant plant varieties and crop rotation
- in buildings, reducing clutter and maintaining good hygiene

4. Control

If prevention methods have not worked, and monitoring, identification and action thresholds indicate that pest control is necessary, the next step is to evaluate the control options. IPM prioritises methods that present the least risk to the environment and human health. These include:

- physical controls such as trapping or weeding
- using highly targeted chemical controls such as pheromones to disrupt reproduction

If monitoring indicates that these methods are not effective, pest control methods such as targeted spraying of pesticides can be used. General spraying of non-specific pesticides is only done if all other measures have failed.