

# **INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM) FOR THE YARD AND GARDEN**

IPM is short for Integrated Pest Management. IPM combines several pest management techniques to reduce the use of pesticides in the yard and home.

IPM programs focus on monitoring pest populations and damage. A combination of biological, chemical and non-chemical (cultural, physical and mechanical) methods can be used to manage pest populations. IPM programs stress only using pesticides when specific pests appear. When pesticides are used, the least toxic, most effective and most pest-specific one with the least potential environmental impact should be used, and label directions should always be followed.

IPM emphasizes that plant health must be maintained to reduce stress. Healthy, unstressed plants resist insects and diseases better.

Components of IPM for the yard and garden include planting disease resistant varieties, soil testing, encouraging natural predators (ladybugs and garden spiders) to stay in the yard, using less toxic pesticides that break down quickly and using pesticides according to label directions. Also, many pests hide in weeds, under leaves and under trash and debris, so fall clean up to prevent pests from over-wintering and appearing the next spring is another important part of IPM.

## **TO BEGIN YOUR OWN IPM PROGRAM...**

Always make sure that you have identified the pest you are trying to control. Remember there are many ways to control pests using both non-chemical and chemical methods. Try alternative pesticides such as insecticidal soap or sabadilla dust. Use conventional pesticides like Dursban, Orthene, or diazinon, only when absolutely necessary.

## **STEPS TO FOLLOW FOR IPM**

- Select plants that will grow well in the area..
- Select healthy plants with no pests or pest damage. When they are available, use cultivars that are resistant to insects and diseases.
- Maintain plant health through soil testing and proper fertilization. Also, do not over- or under-water plants.
- Inspect plants frequently for pests. It is easier to control smaller numbers than larger numbers. Check the base of the plant and under leaves where pests may be hiding.
- Use non-chemical means to remove pests when possible, such as handpicking caterpillars on cabbage or washing tomato plants with water to knock off spider mites.
- Use insecticides containing pyrethrins, insect growth regulators, or natural compounds when possible. These generally breakdown quicker in the environment than Orthene or Malathion.

- When using conventional insecticides such as Dursban or Sevin follow recommended rates, waiting periods for picking vegetables and time intervals for repeat applications.
- Wear gloves when mixing and applying any pesticide. Wear dust masks to prevent inhaling any dust.
- Never use more than the recommended amounts on the labels.

For more information on IPM and the pest that you are trying to control, check with your county OSU Extension Office.