

# Integrated Pest Management 2

**Objective:** to familiarize crew members with the concept of Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

**Training Materials:** IPM monitoring tools: hand lens, pocket knife, coffee can with both ends removed, soap flush bottles, plastic bags and vials for collecting samples, weed counting grid, clipboard and data collection forms, pest profile chart or phenology indicator chart.

IPM is a decision making process based on correct plant management techniques, monitoring for pests, careful record keeping and controlling pests using reduced-risk products only when necessary.

Technicians familiar enough with the plants and individual site will get to understand the difference between 'damage threshold' (pests present, but no action required) and 'action threshold' (level of pest requires treatment). Once an action threshold has been reached, a **decision** to treat the plant and/or area must be made.

IPM mandates that the least toxic **control** options be chosen first. This means using biological, mechanical and cultural controls to try to reduce pest populations to acceptable level. If pest levels are not affected by the first level of treatment, a targeted application of pesticide can be used. The least toxic pesticide should be used. Only licensed technicians can perform pesticide treatments.

Once the IPM program is in place, it should be **evaluated** regularly. IPM is a management process that should be constantly tweaked and reevaluated. Through careful record keeping, IPM managers can determine the most effective times and techniques to sustain healthy plant growth and manage pest populations.

The green industry has developed an IPM Accreditation process to reduce our reliance on pesticides and promote the discipline, philosophy and careful practice of IPM. Companies undertaking the accreditation process are evaluated by a third-party auditor to ensure their compliance with these principles.

**Resources:**

[www.ontarioipm.com](http://www.ontarioipm.com)  
(accreditation process in Ontario)

[www.healthylawns.net](http://www.healthylawns.net)

[www.pestinfo.ca](http://www.pestinfo.ca)

[www.nbhta.ca/sustainable\\_turf\\_manual.htm](http://www.nbhta.ca/sustainable_turf_manual.htm)

Coincide: the Orton System of Pest Management, by: D.A. Orton for phenology indicators.

- *The green industry has developed an IPM Accreditation process to reduce our reliance on pesticides and promote the discipline, philosophy and careful practice of IPM. Companies undertaking the accreditation process are evaluated by a third-party auditor to ensure their compliance with these principles.*

- *IPM is a decision making process based on correct plant management techniques, monitoring for pests, careful record keeping and controlling pests using reduced-risk products only when necessary.*

