

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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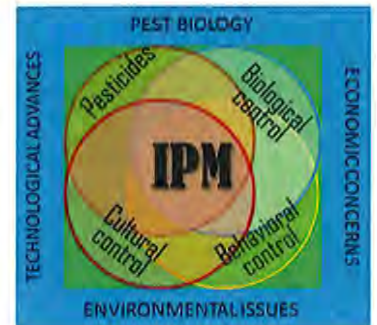


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Annual Report of the Maine Integrated Pest Management Council to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry 2018



The Maine Legislature established the **Integrated Pest Management Council** in 2002 to promote, expand and enhance integrated pest management adoption in all sectors of pesticide use and pest management within the State. The Council also promotes public education about the needs, benefits, and practices of IPM. **The Maine IPM Council** is administered and coordinated jointly by Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and University of Maine Cooperative Extension. The Council is made up of 11 members, jointly appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture and the Executive Director of University of Maine Cooperative Extension.



2018 Activities

- **Advocacy.** IPM Council advocates for IPM at the state and national level. In 2018 the Council provided written comments in support of IPM through public comment process to the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The Council also developed a position statement on IPM-based invasive species management which is posted on the Council's website.
- **Outreach and Education.** The Council supported members involved in promoting adoption of IPM-based municipal policies. The Council created a flier entitled 'What is IPM?' which was shared with several town committees and made available on the Council's website. The Council also distributes educational materials promoting integrated pest management including 'Getting Started with IPM', 'IPM for Woodlands' and 'Invasive Plant Management' fact sheets posted on the Council's website (www.maine.gov/ipmcouncil) and distributed at various events and resource centers such as the Maine Agricultural Trades Show, Beginning Farmer Resource Network and the Maine Forest Service. **IPM Literacy Program:** Hundreds of free standards-aligned lessons, activities and resources are made available to youth and educators via webpages and training for pre-service teachers through a partnership with the University of Maine Farmington Education Department. Council members also support youth education through partnership with Maine Agriculture in the Classroom, Maine School Garden Network, and various youth education events.
- **Enhanced Public Access to IPM Solutions.** The Council's GotPests.org website provides an easy-to-use gateway to research-based, environmentally friendly pest management guidelines and pest identification resources for the general public and Maine land stewards. The website is widely publicized at public events, libraries, farm stands, fairs, and links from other websites. To date, over 30,000 promotional bookmarks have been distributed. In 2018 the



Bookmark directs users to on-line IPM resources

Council partnered with various organizations to inform and educate the about IPM solutions to current pest issues including ticks, mosquitoes, and brown tail moth.

What is IPM?

Integrated Pest Management is a science-based approach that combines a variety of techniques. By studying their life cycles and how pests interact with the environment, IPM professionals can manage pests with the most current methods to improve management, lower costs, and reduce risks to people and the environment.

IPM tools include:

- Alter surroundings
- Add beneficial insects/organisms
- Grow plants that resist pests
- Disrupt development of pest
- Prevention of pest problem developing
- Disrupt insect behaviors
- Use pesticides

1 IDENTIFY/MONITOR

Determine the causal agent and its abundance (contact your local extension agent for help)

2 EVALUATE

The results from monitoring will help to answer the questions: is the pest causing damage? Do we need to act? As pest numbers increase toward the economic threshold further treatments may be necessary.

3 PREVENT

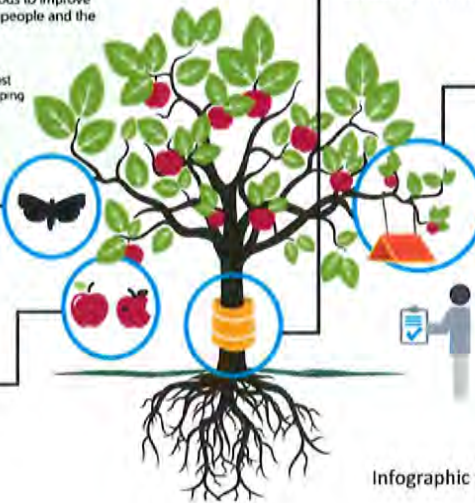
Some pest problems can be prevented by using resistant plants, planting early, rotating crops, using barriers against climbing pests, sanitation, and sealing cracks in buildings.

4 ACTION

IPM uses multiple tools to reduce pests below an economically damaging level. A careful selection of preventive and curative treatments will reduce reliance on any one tactic and increase likelihood of success.

5 MONITOR

Continue to monitor the pest population. If it remains low or decreases, further treatments may not be necessary, but if it increases and exceeds the action threshold, another IPM tool should be used.



Infographic from Entomological Society of America

IPM Council Members (as of December 2018)	
Andrei Alyokhin	University of Maine
David Handley	University of Maine Cooperative Extension
Ryan Crane	Crane Brothers Farms
Nancy Sferra	The Nature Conservancy
Maggie Shannon	Maine Lakes Society
Ronald Lemin, Jr.	Nutrien Ag Solutions
Eric Sideman	Maine Organic Farmers & Gardeners Association
Tom Irwin	Central Maine Power
Rebecca Richards	Central Exterminating Services
Jesse O'Brien	Maine Ornamental Horticultural Association
Marilyn Meyerhans	Maine State Pomological Society

For more information about the Maine IPM Council visit www.maine.gov/ipmcouncil or contact **Kathy Murray** (Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, kathy.murray@maine.gov, 207-287-7616) or **Jim Dill** (University of Maine Cooperative Extension, james.dill@maine.edu, 1-800-287-0279).