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## Integrated Pest Management

## What is IPM?

IPM is the combined use of cultural, mechanical, physical, biological, resistant varieties and chemical methods for effective, economical pest control with minimum effect on non-target organisms and the environment.

The total eradication of pests is not a primary IPM goal. Instead, IPM is an approach used to achieve better, and more effective and longer lasting control of pests.

## IPM Strategies

IPM uses a broad range of techniques and practices to accomplish its goals. To practice IPM effectively you must do the following:



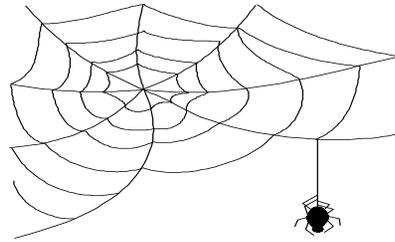
- Learn to identify harmful organisms (pests).
- Learn to identify helpful organisms. Know which stage of a pest is the easiest to control and when to take action.
- Know which plants pests most frequently attack.
- Know which plants act as pest deterrents and include them in your garden. (Marigold, scallion, leeks and/or shallots).
- Scout frequently for the presence of pests and beneficials. Hand pick or prune off pests infested/infected plant parts when possible.
- Spot treat! Spray affected plants and those immediately around them only. Use the least harmful pesticide that is safe for the environment, and helpful organisms.

Use proper cultural practices. Low or excessive amounts of water and fertilizer waste labour, time and money and can upset the growth and development of plants making them more susceptible to pest attacks.

Practice crop rotation.

## Why IPM?

The IPM approach to pest control helps to maintain a safe environment, reduces exposure of people and wildlife to potential harmful chemicals and provides a long-term prevention of pest problems



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- **Safety for People and the Environment.**  
By reducing the amount of pesticides that could contaminate the water, air and soil people would enjoy a greater degree of safety.
- **Pesticide Resistance Management**  
Reduced pesticide use slows insect resistance buildup, does less to disturb ecological harmony and tends to maintain the effectiveness of pesticides for a longer time. This will reduce the dependency on pesticides and the continuous search for new pesticides which further aggravate the resistance problem.
- **Biological Controls Preserved**  
By using selective pesticides, which do not disrupt the naturally occurring

biological control agents, farmers and gardeners gain the benefit of natural control to assist in pest management efforts.

- **Improved Control**  
IPM fosters a return to a more "natural" balance between pests and control agents thereby achieving the desired goal of improved and long-term control of pests.
- **Potential savings of labour and material costs**  
In an IPM programme pesticide usage is on an "as needed" basis hence, fewer pesticide applications are generally required. This results in potential savings of labour and material costs.

