SOLE
Sciences of Life Explorations:
Through Agriculture
Grades 4 and 5

Teacher Guide
Unit: Learning about IPM
UNIT PLAN

UNIT TITLE
Learning about IPM

GOAL
In this unit, students will learn about Integrated Pest Management (IPM): the decision-making process involved in reducing pests. They will recognize that pests can be animals or insects in homes and other structures, as well as weeds, insects and diseases in yards, gardens and croplands. Students should learn that gaining knowledge before they act is important in all they do. Specific to this lesson, students will be reminded that pesticides are chemicals and must be used carefully. Pesticides are used to eliminate pests, but should not be the first choice for treatment. We hope students and teachers discuss IPM in the classroom and at home with their families.

OBJECTIVES
Students will:

1. Listen and read to acquire information and understanding from collecting data, facts, and ideas; and discovering relationships. (NYS Learning Standard 1: Language for Information and Understanding, Elementary 1)

2. Use scientific inquiry to develop explanations of natural phenomena, such as when bugs can be pests. (NYS Learning Standard 1: Analysis, Inquiry, and Design, Elementary 1)

3. Explore and solve the problem of pest-related damage to trees in their school neighborhood. (NYS Learning Standard 1: Analysis, Inquiry, and Design, Elementary 3, Mathematical Analysis)

4. Take notes and make charts of their observations in order to gain insight into the problem and solution of pests. (NYS Learning Standard 1: Analysis, Inquiry, and Design, Intermediate 3, Scientific Inquiry)

5. Acknowledge that living things are both similar to and different from each other by describing characteristics of various insects. (NYS Learning Standard: Science, Elementary 1, Living Environment)


7. Identify ways in which humans have changed their environment and the effects of those changes. (NYS Learning Standard 4: Science, Elementary 7, Living Environment)


9. Analyze science problems that affect their home, school and community and carry out a remedy. (NYS Learning Standard 7: Interdisciplinary Problem Solving: Elementary 1, Connections)

10. Identify classes of organisms involved in IPM and explain the roles of those organisms. (Food and Fiber Systems Literacy III: Science, Technology, and Environment: B, 6-8)

11. Identify pest management practices in agriculture and compare traditional and alternative pest management practices. (Food and Fiber Systems Literacy III: Science, Technology, and Environment: C, 4-5)

12. Analyze science problems that affect a nearby tree and carry out a remedy. (NYS Learning Standard 7: Interdisciplinary Problem Solving: Elementary 1, Connections)
**TERMS**

**Beneficial** - helpful

**Bud** - an oval-shaped structure found above leaf scars, that holds next year’s flowers or leaves

**Coniferous** - a tree which has seeds in cones and very narrow or overlapping leaves; most are evergreens and have leaves throughout the year

**Consensus** - an opinion or agreement reached by a group as a whole

**Cooperative extension** - a resource for more information on pest control, an office in each county where people work to help farmers and homeowners be educated about farming and take care of their homes and their health

**Deciduous** - a tree which does not have seeds in cones, and has broad leaves that fall in autumn

**Host** - something that pests live off, such as an animal, crop, or other plant

**Integrated** - using multiple ways to do something

**IPM** - abbreviation for Integrated Pest Management, a way to reduce pests by using the safest and best methods

**Leaf scar** - area where a leaf was attached to the twig

**Nutrients** - necessary vitamins and minerals; fue’ for our bodies

**Pest** - something that is damaging or causes a problem, such as a bug, weed, or disease

Pesticide - something that eliminates or reduces pests

**Pith** - the center of a twig

**Predator** - an organism that hunts and eats other organisms

**Species** - a group of related organisms that resemble one another and breed among themselves

**Tactics** - actions taken to get something done

**Terminal bud ring** - a scar that forms a ring around the twig where last year’s terminal bud was

**Toxic** - poisonous

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*Integrated Pest Management is a specialized form of environmental management wherein scientific research and real world application work together to reduce pests such as insects, diseases or weeds.*

1. **Properly identify pests**
2. **Learn the pest/host biology**
3. **Sample the environment for pests**
4. **Determine an action threshold**
5. **Choose the best tactic**
6. **Evaluate results**

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**SAFETY**

General school safety practices, as well as safety with tools and chemicals.
Standards Matrix for this Lesson:

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Math/Science/and Technology</th>
<th>English Language Arts</th>
<th>Social Studies</th>
<th>HEALTH</th>
<th>ARTS</th>
<th>Food &amp; Fiber Literacy</th>
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<th>Other Languages</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>4:10 e7</td>
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Matrix Key:
NYS Learning Standards arranged by Standard: Category, Level  
\[ e = \text{elementary} \quad i = \text{intermediate} \]

Categories:
1 Career Development
2 Universal Foundation Skills
3 Language for Information and Understanding
4 Language for Literary Response and Expression
5 Language for Social Interaction
6 Communication Skills
7 Analysis, Inquiry, and Design
8 Information Systems
9 Mathematics
10 Science
11 Technology
12 Interconnectedness: Common Themes
13 Interdisciplinary Problem Solving
14 History of the United States and New York
15 World History
16 Geography
17 Economics
BACKGROUND FOR TEACHERS

Why teach about IPM?

Children are especially vulnerable to pesticides. They play close to the ground, put things in their mouths, grow rapidly, eat a lot relative to their body size, and are less able to detoxify chemicals in their bodies. Children in cities are at special risk because chemicals that may alter neurological and reproductive development are most heavily applied there. Schools are a focal point of urban communities. New York State has 703 public school districts, and 3.5 million K-12 students.

IPM is real-world science. It teaches about birds and bees, health and disease, and about the ever-shifting interface between science, nature, and culture.

Pesticide Use in American Households Is Prolific

Household toxins include insecticides, disinfectants, repellents, herbicides, fungicides, rat and mouse poison, and unregulated fumigants. In 2002, the Environmental Protection Agency estimated that domestic users applied 1.1 billion pounds of active pesticide ingredients, and that 90 percent of households used pesticides. The New York State Attorney General’s office found that 69 percent of urban dwellers used pesticides in their living space, and that 33 percent did so weekly.

Besides the risks posed to human and the environment, pesticide use can promote resistance in weeds, insects, and diseases. In fact, over 530 insect species now show resistance to pesticides. New legislation in some areas is phasing out entire classes of pesticides, which means that communities need alternative ways to manage pests where people live, work, play, and learn.

Pesticide Use and Human Health

A wealth of publications examine the risks of environmental toxins to human and animal health. As many as 107 active ingredients in pesticides may cause cancer in animals or humans. Pesticide-related illnesses in children rose significantly between 1988 and 2002. In cases where the source of exposure could be traced, 69% were tied to chemicals used to control insect pests in schools - more than double the number linked to pesticide drift from neighboring farmlands. Pesticide use by farmers is heavily regulated, but pesticide use by homeowners is not.

NYS IPM’s School Program works with facilities managers to implement the least toxic pest management strategies for schools and grounds. There is an urgent need for public education, since the majority of our population is urban, pest populations are elevated and concentrated in urban areas, and children in cities are at higher risks for pesticide-related illnesses. Since children are primary stakeholders, they deserve to be informed.
Pesticide use and environmental challenges

Pesticide contamination of water resources is well-documented. The United States Geological Survey reports that decades of pesticide use have resulted in widespread contamination. Seventy percent of New Yorkers - roughly 17 million - are served by public water. In urban areas, concentrations of more than one pesticide often exceed established water-quality guidelines. Non-point source pollution (pollution whose source is hard to identify) is the dominant threat to water quality, and accounts for up to 65 percent of water pollution in the northeastern U.S. Residential neighborhoods are a major non-point source of pollution.

The need for IPM education

Teaching people about the link between pesticide use, IPM, and water quality is crucially important. Public concern about health and environmental risks, especially for children, is increasing. IPM is endorsed by the EPA and national parent-teacher groups. The National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health recommends IPM for schools. We can teach our citizens to prevent or reduce pest infestations using a combination of good science and good sense; to choose the least toxic agents when pesticides are necessary as a last resort; to base their decisions on identifying pests correctly and understanding their biology; and to think IPM.

Why educate children about IPM?

Schoolchildren are an enormous audience, one that’s both vulnerable to pesticide overuse and open to new ideas, and children carry the message far into the future. What they learn trickles out into the broader community because they take the message home.

We inspire students to discover science and IPM through interactive learning programs that are fun, engaging, and encourage conversation between adults and children. IPM is real-world science in action and provides a fantastic opportunity to provide educational materials that are applicable to daily life. Preventing pesticide misuse starts with engaging children and through them, their families and communities, and so providing the input, education, and resources that help each person contribute to the solution.

QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS

What is IPM?
What is a pest?
Why should IPM be important to me?
What is a pesticide?
What are toxic substances?
If I have a pest in my house or garden, what should I do?
**BE A TREE DOCTOR**

**TEACHER INFORMATION**

Materials required:
- Magnifying Glass
- Tree

Purpose
This activity’s purpose is to allow students to critically examine a tree for signs of pests, to make hypotheses as to what might have caused such damage, and what can be done to prevent or control the problem.

What is a tree?
For our purposes, a tree is defined as a woody plant usually having a single, upright stem growing to a height of at least 15 feet with a defined crown developing at least two or more feet above the ground. Shrubs, in contrast, usually have several upright or spreading stems branching from the base and grow less than 15 feet tall. (http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/naturalresources/DD0486.html)

Selecting a Tree
Before taking your class outdoors, do some investigative work. Locate an easily identifiable tree near your classroom. If a tree cannot be found on school grounds, take a walk to a park or somewhere a tree is available for observation. It may or may not have immediate signs of pests, but most trees have some type of pest problem. Walk around the tree and look closely at the trunk, leaves, and ground for signs of pests. (see Reference Sheets for a guide). Make a list of the signs you found.

NB: Keep in mind that sometimes, humans are the pests! We can cause damage to trees by salting the ground nearby, or by making damage to the trunks. Ask students why they should never try to carve into a tree. (making holes in the trunk allows the tree to become more susceptible to disease and pests, just like a cut on human skin can let germs in).

Time of Year
This activity can be completed in the spring or fall. Be careful not to attribute dead leaves to pests if it is too late in the fall, or little leaf growth if it is too early in the spring.

Identifying Trees
When we try to identify things, whether rocks, animals or trees, we begin by connecting them with groups of things with similar characteristics. Trees can be classified into two broad groups: coniferous and deciduous.

- **Coniferous** trees bear their seeds in cones and have very narrow or overlapping leaves. All of the coniferous trees except the larches are evergreens, meaning that they maintain their leaves throughout the year.
- **Deciduous** trees do not bear their seeds in cones, and have broad leaves that drop in autumn.


See included reference sheets for information on common signs of pests, types of damage, and methods of treatment and control.
Procedure:

1. Take the class outside on a nice day and have them walk around the tree.
   Guide them in looking at the leaves for holes or discoloration, or for caterpillars, beetles, or damage on the trunk.
2. Symptoms & Treatment
   A. Describe the site
      Before deciding on any plan of action, thoroughly observe the designated tree and its surroundings. Write observations as journal entries.
   B. Consensus
      As each student makes his observations, build consensus with peers
   C. Document
      Always document observations
   D. Identify
      Identify current and potential pest species and conditions in the tree that could support pests, such as air, water, food, shelter, temperature, and light
   E. Monitor
      Monitor pests and environmental conditions, including pest population levels. (Graphs could be made comparing daily or weekly observations.)
   F. Discuss what the students found.
      i. What signs of pests did you see?
      ii. What might have caused those signs?
      iii. What should you do about the damage?
   G. Damage Evaluation
      Is damage extensive enough to require action? You want to avoid using chemicals or other harsh methods if the tree is not being overly harmed. Pests are natural and widespread, so unless the tree is dying or appears unsightly, leave the bugs alone. If the damage is extensive, then the use of IPM methods should be considered.
   H. Planning
      Establish, through consensus, possible action plans, listing pros and cons. Review best management practices for dealing with identified problems.
      The class may:
      i. Take no action
      ii. Choose manual action
      iii. Choose biological action
      Examples of action to be implemented:
      i. Removal of salt remains
      ii. Watering
      iii. Mulching
      iv. Adding peat
      v. Removing bugs by hand
      vi. Putting tree guard around trunk
      vii. Introducing beneficial organisms
   I. Approval
      Your action plan needs teacher and/or proper authority approval. Once given, your strategy needs to be implemented.
   J. Materials and Tools
      Decide on what tools and materials will be needed. Class and teacher will decide who will be responsible for bringing in each item. If items from home are requested, the teacher should inform parents of the project and the need for designated materials and/or tools.
K. Participating
   Define responsibilities of each member of the class. If possible, the entire class should be involved in
   the process.
L. Take action
   Carry out your plan by implementing your decisions.
M. Evaluation
   Examine your results periodically. Students should make notes of their observations in journal entries.
N. Determination
   As a class, decide if the original goal has been met.
   i. If yes, celebrate!
   ii. If no, learn more about the tree through its twigs.

*Please note: The above plan is for deciduous and coniferous trees. However, this basic procedure can
be used for investigating any plant problems caused by pests, as well as other kinds of damage.
Common Tree Problems

Tip Die-Back

Ends of branches are dead with no leaves. The center branches of the tree may still have leaves, but the outer branches have few leaves. This is a sign of general ill-health.

Discoloration

Leaf discoloration such as yellow leaves or leaves that look like they are dying too early in the fall. Leaf problems can be due to a variety of factors, including low pH (acidic) soil, too much water, or general ill-health.

“Witch’s Brooms”

Tips of tree branches look more spindly than normal, similar to a witch’s broom. The most probable cause of this is salt damage. Is there a sidewalk or driveway nearby that is salted during the winter?

Leaves wrinkled and discolored: Aphids

Aphids suck juices from maple leaves, causing them to turn yellow or brown. Ants are attracted to the honeydew secreted by aphids.

Tree defoliated; Twigs girdled: Bagworms

Bagworms feed on the leaves of maples and girdle the twigs. The adult males are black, clear-winged moths. Female moths have no wings. The bagworm caterpillar builds a silken cocoon and attaches bits and pieces of leaves for camouflage. Look for the bags, which are covered with leaves and twigs.

Holes in leaves: Boxelder bugs

Boxelder bugs chew holes in the flowers, fruit, and foliage of maple trees. Adult bugs are brownish-black with red markings. They measure about 1/2 inch in length and resemble squash bugs. The nymphs are bright red. The adults frequently swarm in the fall around the bases of trees, fence posts, or walls.

Leaves wilt and turn brown: Midges

Trees infested by midges show wilted, deformed, and browned buds and foliage. Adults are two-winged flies, 1/14 to 1/8 inch long, with long legs and antennae.

Numerous galls on leaves: Mites

Maple bladder gall mites cover the upper surfaces of maple leaves with small, green, wartlike galls, which later turn blood red. If the galls are very numerous, the leaves become deformed.

Small bumps on leaves and branches: Scale

Scale insects attach themselves to leaves and branches of trees and actually look like bumps. They protect themselves under a waxy, concave, shell-like covering. These insects are brown, about 1/8 to 1/4 inch in diameter, and create a cottony mass around themselves. This mass can contain up to 500 eggs, and is about 1/2 inch in diameter. In June, the young move out and infest the leaves. Scale insects suck the sap from the leaves and branches, causing leaves to yellow and curl. If you see small bumps on the branches of your pines, you may be looking at scale insects. Scale insects suck the sap from the needles and bark.

Leaves turn brown and collapse: Wilt

A fungus causes wilt in oaks. Affected trees have curled, drooping brown leaves, and sometimes the sapwood turns black or brown.

Pine leaves yellowish, tunnels in bark: Beetles

Pines are susceptible to attack from a wide variety of beetles. The damage beetles do can be especially dangerous after a period of prolonged drought.
Information on Pest & Disease Treatment & Control:

To control aphids, spray trees vigorously with water. Do this in the morning, three times, once every other day. If aphids keep returning, spray with insecticidal soap every two to three days until the pests are gone.

Bagworms’ bags can be picked off of the tree. In August, set out pheromone traps to catch male bagworms, in the hope of reducing the population of these pests next year.

Control boxelder bugs by spraying infected trees with insecticidal soap. Spray them two or three times at three- to five-day intervals.

To control midges, pick and destroy infested leaves and gather and dispose of any fallen leaves; then spray the tree with insecticidal soap, using three applications at three- to five-day intervals.

As soon as you spot mite damage, spray trees in the early morning with a forceful stream of water to knock mites from leaf undersides. Repeat this procedure on three consecutive mornings. If you still find mites on your trees, spray with insecticidal soap.

All scale insects are controlled in the same way. If caught early on, you can scrape them off the tree with your fingernail or a cotton swab dipped in rubbing alcohol; otherwise, spray with a mixture of alcohol and insecticidal soap every three days for two weeks. To make this mixture, combine 1/2 cup of alcohol with every quart of insecticidal soap you use.

No effective control for wilt is known. Infected trees must be cut down and destroyed. Prune and destroy dead branches. If your tree is badly infected, remove it, together with as many roots as possible, and destroy it, since the soil may continue to harbor the fungi.

Most beeltes can be controlled by hand-picking. No effective control for bark beetles is known. Keep your trees in good condition with proper feeding and watering. Cut down severely infested trees and destroy them.

Source for Pest Signs #4-11 and Treatments:

Reference Sheets:

Other Types of Tree Damage

Understanding the problem

Tree roots develop and survive where there is adequate oxygen and moisture. Most active tree roots are in the top three feet of soil, and the majority of those are in the top twelve inches. The more compacted or poorly drained the soil, the closer the roots are to the surface. When the roots on one side of the tree are injured, the branches on that side of the tree may die.

Root damage by trenching

Digging trenches for installation of water and sewer pipes, telephone cables, gas lines, or for building foundations can damage the root system of nearby trees.

Roots covered by pavement

Roots which are covered by pavement may be deprived of air and moisture, which are essential for growth. If a large area around the tree is paved, the surface should be porous to allow water and air to penetrate.

Changes in soil grade

Even a few inches of fill or soil removal can cause extensive root damage. Clay soils cause the most damage because the fineness of the soil shuts out air and water more than a gravelly or coarse soil.

Storm Damage

Treatment of storm-damaged trees requires wise decisions and prompt action to achieve maximum benefit from repair work. Repairs come in two stages: first aid for immediate attention; and follow-up work to be distributed over a period of months to several years. Care for damaged large trees is best left to professionals.

Snow/ice damage

Little can be done about removing ice from plants. Snow can be removed with a broom. Always sweep upward, lifting snow off. When the branches are frozen they are quite brittle and may break. Do not be in a hurry to prune to correct plants bent out of shape by snow or ice. Often, the plants will straighten up by themselves in a few days. Broken branches, however, should be pruned as soon as possible.

Hollow trees

Hollow trees result from a tree injury severe enough that the tree fails to stop the spread of decay. Fungi cause wood decay and insects assist with wood removal. Growth continues to occur on the outer part of the trunk, which remains intact. Traditionally, homeowners have attempted to clean decay from the cavity and fill the empty space with concrete or similar material. Benefits from filling the cavity are questionable at best. Sometimes the cavity will contain water. The old recommendation was to drill holes below the cavity so that the water could drain. However, drilling holes will break the barrier that keeps the decay from invading healthy wood.

Water Stress

Most plants wilt when they experience inadequate moisture. Leaves on river birch and poplar trees turn yellow and drop. Sycamore leaves turn brown and fall, while other trees develop premature fall color or shed small branches.

Lawnmowers and Weed Trimmers

Injury and infection started by a lawnmower or weed trimmer can seriously threaten a tree’s health. The most severe injury occurs in early spring during leaf emergence, and in early fall during leaf drop. Injury can be prevented by the removal (by hand trimming) or prevention (use of mulch) of grass and weeds from growing at the base of the tree. Wounds are serious enough by themselves, but the wounded tree must also protect itself from pathogens that invade the wound, attacking the bark and healthy tissue.

Sources

TWIG DETECTIVE

TEACHER INFORMATION
Investigating twigs can help us infer a lot about a tree, such as the weather, the tree’s age and environment, and whether the tree is infested with insects. Guide students to consider some of the above during this activity and encourage students’ input.

Gathering Twigs
Using pruning shears, cut enough twigs (approx. 12”-15” long whenever possible) for pairs of students to examine in the classroom. As an alternative, you may choose to have students go outside to investigate twigs as they grow on the tree.

Information
1. Parts of a Twig
   A. **pith** - center of a twig
   B. **leaf scar** - area where leaf was attached to the branch
   C. **bud** - oval-shaped structures usually found above leaf scars
   D. **terminal bud ring** - a scar that may form a ring around the twig, located where the prior year’s terminal bud was

1. Determining Twig Growth
   A. Measure the distance from one terminal bud ring to the next, or from last year’s terminal bud ring to this year’s terminal bud.

Procedure:
1. Students will use a magnifying glass to find:
   A. **pith**
   B. **leaf scar**
   C. **bud**
   D. **terminal bud ring**
2. Trace back the years by measuring the distance from one terminal bud ring to the next. Record the data in journal entries.
3. Compare data with other students’ and look for patterns. Make a chart of the data collected. Use this data to make a bar graph (see sample below).
4. What conclusions can be made about growth? About the health of the tree?
5. Discuss possible reasons for these growth patterns.
6. With this new information, have we learned enough to meet the original goal? If not, it may be time to contact your county’s Cooperative Extension Office for assistance.

![Annual Twig Growth](chart.jpg)
SUMMARY OF CONTENT

I. Introduction
   A. Introduces the concept of Integrated Pest Management and defines what a pest is

II. I Protect Myself
   A. Relates Integrated Pest Management to I Protect Myself

III. Why should IPM be important to me?
   A. Discusses pests and the concept of pesticide

IV. What are Toxic Substances?
   A. Discusses the importance of using pesticides and toxic substances safely and includes an at-home activity

V. Red, Yellow, Green
   A. Discusses the IPM pyramid and ways to decide when and how to use pesticides safely

VI. IPM Steps (2 pages)
   A. The steps of IPM:
      i. Learn to properly identify the pest (and beneficial insects)
      ii. Learn the life cycle and biology (consider contacting Cooperative extension)
      iii. Sample and monitor the environment
      iv. Determine an action threshold (Is it necessary to use pesticides?)
      v. Choose tactics
      vi. Evaluate results

VII. Review What You’ve Learned
   A. Covers pest vs. beneficial insect, the IPM pyramid, and safety with chemicals

VIII. Vocabulary

TEACHING-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

I. Introduction
   A. Read this page individually or as a class.

II. I Protect Myself
   A. Students work to individually fill in the blanks and complete the sentences.

III. Why should IPM be important to me?
   A. Discuss as a class to get students thinking about pesticides.

IV. What are Toxic Substances?
   A. Introduce this activity by reading aloud in class.
   B. Students complete the activity at home.

V. Red, Yellow, Green
   A. Read this page together as a class.
   B. Create the pyramid found at the end of the lesson pages.

VI. IPM Steps (2 pages)
   A. Use these pages for individual reading or discuss them together as a class.
   B. Refer to the IPM pyramid for steps 4 & 5.

VII. Review What You’ve Learned
   A. Have students complete this page individually.

VIII. Vocabulary
What is IPM?

IPM is the short way to say Integrated Pest Management, which means being careful about how we try to reduce pests. The word “integrated” means using a combination of ways to do something

What is a pest?

A pest is what we call things, usually living things, that are causing problems. Sometimes this means bugs are eating our plants. Sometimes it means a disease is affecting our fruit tree. Weeds can be pests in a garden because they compete for nutrients and water in the soil.

Something that is a pest in our house, like ants, may not be pests outside. Sometimes, a pest is also something that is simply in the wrong place.

A wasp can be a pest when it is next to your front door. But in the garden, it is a beneficial insect, because it eats caterpillars that eat your vegetables.
Student Lesson: Learning about **IPM**  
I Protect Myself

I Protect Myself from **pests** and pesticides.  
I Protect My environment from **pests** and pesticides.  
I Protect My own food and flowers.  
I Protect My food and flowers from **pests** and pesticides.

I Protect My ____________________________________________

I Protect My ____________________________________________

I Protect My ____________________________________________

I Protect My ____________________________________________
Student Lesson: Learning about **IPM**
**Why should IPM be important to me?**

**IPM** is important for everyone, *ecause everyone should use the safest and best-working way to eliminate **pests**. It is the healthy thing to do!

What is a pesticide?

When we end a word with “-icide,” *it means we want to eliminate something.*

What we put at the beginning of that word refers to what we want to eliminate.

For example, an insecticide (“insect” + “icide”) eliminates insects.

What does a pesticide eliminate?

**Answer:**

____________________
Student Lesson: Learning about **IPM**

What are **Toxic** Substances?

Pesticides and other **toxic** substances may be in and around your home. Do you know how to use them safely?

Take this list home and discuss it with your parents. We use many types of products to change the environment we live in. Most products contain chemicals. They can be used safely, but can also cause harm if used incorrectly. Always read the labels carefully, use as directed, and dispose of properly. Consider ways to use less chemicals.

With the help of an adult, circle the items used in your home!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pesticides</th>
<th>Other <strong>Toxic</strong> Substances</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cockroach sprays and baits</td>
<td>Drain cleaners</td>
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<td>Mosquito sprays</td>
<td>Oven cleaners</td>
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<td>Rat poisons</td>
<td>Laundry detergents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flea and tick sprays, powders, and collars</td>
<td>Furniture polish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household plant sprays</td>
<td>Paint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming pool chemicals</td>
<td>Bleach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawn and garden products designed to kill</td>
<td>Ammonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>insects and weeds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Now, add other items that were not on this list:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Do you have any items labeled “**Non-Toxic**” or “**Organic**?”

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Student Lesson: Learning about **IPM**
Red, Yellow, Green

Red - “Stop; don’t go!”
Yellow - “Be cautious”
Green - “Go safely!”

Just like traffic signals use red, yellow and green for our safety, the **IPM** Pyramid reminds us when and how to use pesticides safely.

Use the terms above to fill in the blanks:
When we look at the pyramid, the largest area is the bottom – this is the green area. When we are trying to rid our home of a **pest**, we can use the actions in the green zone safely. They are the methods we should try first and use often.

Green means “__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ .”

For example, to reduce ants in the house, clean up crumbs from food. This is a very safe method of **pest** management and can be used by both children and adults. So, it is in the green area.

The next area is yellow. These methods can be used, but only by an adult and only with care.

Yellow means “__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ .”

Red is the smallest area of the pyramid and should be used the least often. These methods usually use a chemical to reduce the **pest** and may be harmful to others, especially if not used properly. These methods can only be used by an adult, and only when absolutely necessary.

Red means “__ __ __ __ ; __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ .”

In the following lessons, we will learn how to use the steps of **IPM**. Properly identify if there is a problem or a **pest**. Learn about the biology of what you are studying. Sample the environment. Determine the action to take. Evaluate your results.
If you think you have found a pest, what should you do? Be careful! Ask an adult to help you. Remind them to follow the IPM steps.

**IPM Step #1:**
Learn to identify properly

Before you decide you need to get rid of that bug you saw on your plant, make sure you know if it’s a pest or not.

Some of the most ferocious “good” bugs are the larvae of ladybugs and lacewings. They eat many insect pests, so we call them beneficial insects. If you don’t know what they look like, you might think they were “bad” bugs. When you spray, you eliminate beneficial insects, too. Think before you act!

**IPM Step #2:**
Learn the life cycle and biology

Because of the life cycle of pests, there is usually a time when your treatment will work best. If you treat at the wrong time, it may not work - it may be a waste of time and money.

*Integrated Pest Management* means finding out the best way to treat a pest before you take action. Look for information about your pest online, or contact the Cooperative extension in your area.

**IPM Step #3:**
Sample and monitor the environment

Let’s review what we’ve learned. If you see a pest in your house or garden, what should you do? First, ask an adult to help you identify it and learn about it. Step #3 tells us to sample the environment. This means, don’t treat the pest until you are sure there are enough to be a problem. (It’s important to know its life cycle and biology.)
Student Lesson: Learning about **IPM**

**IPM** Steps

**IPM Step # 4:**
Determine an action threshold

There are always going to be **pests** (like insects, diseases and weeds) in and around your home and yard. If you have learned about the **pest**, you will know when you can ignore it or when you should act to treat it.

Remember, you should not use pesticides yourself. Only adults should use pesticides, and they should only use them when they have read the label carefully and have decided it is necessary.

**IPM Step # 5:**
Choose **tactics**

The first **tactics** (actions) you consider should be the safest ones. Always think of the **IPM** pyramid. Use **tactics** from the green zone first (Go Safely).

For example: Use a fly swatter instead of spraying, or pull young weeds by hand before they mature and drop seeds.

**IPM Step #6:**
Evaluate results

Keep track of what worked and what didn’t work. If you always have problems with **pests** in the same place, at the same time every year, it’s time to make a change.

For example: your Mom’s favorite shrub used to get a leaf spot disease every summer. Last year, you cleaned up the dry leaves in the late fall (where the fungus spores were hiding) and this year, the plant did not get spots. What does that mean? Will you clean up the dry leaves every year to prevent the infection?
Some insects can be a **pest** or **beneficial**.

____ yes    ____ no

What color is the largest part of the **IPM** Pyramid? ____________

What color is the smallest part of the **IPM** Pyramid? ____________

Why?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Many chemicals can be found in your home. They can be under your kitchen sink or in the garage. Does that mean you can use them?

____yes           ____ no

Finish these phrases:

**ALWAYS _____ THE LABEL**

**I _________ MYSELF**
Study Lesson: Learning about **IPM**

**Vocabulary**

**Beneficial** - helpful

**Bud** - an oval-shaped structure found above **leaf scars**, that holds next year’s flowers or leaves

**Coniferous** - a tree which has seeds in cones and very narrow or overlapping leaves; most are evergreens and have leaves throughout the year

**Consensus** - an opinion or agreement reached by a group as a whole

**Cooperative extension** - a resource for more information on **pest** control, an office in each county where people work to help farmers and homeowners be educated about farming and take care of their homes and their health

**Deciduous** - a tree which does not have seeds in cones, and has broad leaves that fall in autumn

**Host** - something that **pests** live off, such as an animal, crop, or other plant

**Integrated** - using multiple ways to do something

**IPM** - abbreviation for **Integrated Pest Management**, a way to reduce **pests** by using the safest and best methods

**Leaf scar** - area where a leaf was attached to the twig

**Nutrients** - necessary vitamins and minerals; fue’ for our bodies

**Pest** - something that is damaging or causes a problem, such as a bug, weed, or disease

**Pesticide** - something that eliminates or reduces **pests**

**Pith** - the center of a twig

**Predator** - an organism that hunts and eats other organisms

**Species** - a group of related organisms that resemble one another and breed among themselves

**Tactics** - actions taken to get something done

**Terminal bud ring** - a scar that forms a ring around the twig where last year’s **terminal bud** was

**Toxic** - poisonous

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**Integrated Pest Management** is a specialized form of environmental management wherein scientific research and real-world application work together to reduce **pests** such as insects, diseases, or weeds.

1. Properly identify pests
2. Learn the pest/host biology
3. Sample the environment for pests
4. Determine an action threshold
5. Choose the best tactic
6. Evaluate results

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Student Worksheet 8
**Teacher information for Student Worksheets**

**Student Worksheet 1**

Introduction

**IPM** and Integrated Pest Management are not common household names, but IPM has been going on around us as long as people have been raising crops and building homes. **IPM** means being knowledgeable about the **pest** you are dealing with and thinking carefully about the best way to treat it. Before science came up with pesticides and traps, farmers let beneficial insects do their jobs.

First, students must begin to understand what a **pest** is. A **pest** is not always a **pest**. It is only when something is damaging, or potentially damaging should it be considered a **pest**.

**Student Worksheet 2**

I Protect Myself

Students should be reminded that common household chemicals as well as those that are stored carefully in the garage, basement, or barn can all be unsafe or **toxic** when they are not used properly. No one likes mosquitoes or cockroaches, but the unsafe use of a chemical can be even more of a problem. Once students become aware that they must consider what is safe, they will begin to think about the actions they take and are exposed to. Have students complete the sentences.

Ex: I protect my family, friends, pets, etc (by being aware of what can cause harm)

**Student Worksheet 3**

Why should **IPM** be important to me?

Pesticides are a serious matter. They are used to kill **pests**. Any type of herbicide (kills plants, specifically targeting weeds), insecticide, or fungicide are all pesticides.

Pesticides are necessary to manage **pests** in agriculture and to protect people from disease-carrying insects and rodents. However, they may be used too frequently when they are not necessary. Homeowners use pesticides with much less control than agriculturalists. When something is sold in a store, we often consider it safe. The search for a **pest**-free home and garden (which is nearly impossible) drives people to use pesticides without the knowledge they need to make sound decisions.

**Student Worksheet 4**

What are **Toxic** Substances

Pesticides and **toxic** substances are found in almost every home. This activity is not meant to frighten anyone, but should be used to remind students and their families that chemicals may be harmful despite their common use. Often, homeowners are concerned with pesticides used in agriculture, but do not think that spraying their lawns against the chance of a weed or insect is the same thing. The main point of this lesson is to be careful!

**Student Worksheet 5**

Red, Yellow, Green

Green: Go safely
Yellow: Be cautious
Red: Stop; don’t go

Using the patterns for the **IPM** Pyramid, have students create their own pyramid. This is an excellent tool to take home and share with family members.

The greatest portion of the pyramid should be colored in with green for “go safely.” The lower four levels are green. The middle level, Physical Techniques, will be yellow for “be cautious.” The top level of the pyramid is the last resort and will be colored in with red for “Stop, don’t go.” Reinforce the idea that the safest methods (green) can be practiced by anyone (example: don’t let crumbs lie around to encourage ants) but actions in the red portion should only be used by adults who have carefully read the label.
Student Worksheet 6-A

IPM Steps

Proper Identification is a key to proper treatment. You might be using a pesticide on something that is causing no harm at all.

Learn the life cycle and biology. Many homeowners treat for grubs in their lawns. Have they actually determined they are in the lawn and causing damage? Do they treat at the most effective time, when grubs are most susceptible?

We all should consider treatments based on what is the most effective and least toxic. We cannot do this unless we have taken the time to learn all the facts.

Sample and monitor the environment. Be sure there are enough pests to cause a problem before you treat. Seeing bugs on your plants does not mean it is time to spray. You may have a healthy population of beneficial insects that are keeping the pest population in check. Spraying them will kill both the beneficial insects and the pests, but consider this: the pest population can come back more quickly than the beneficial insects and your problem may become worse than before you sprayed.

Student Worksheet 6-B

IPM Steps

Determine an action threshold. Knowledge of the pest and the damage it can do is the best way to know when to take action!

Choose tactics. Tactics are actions. Remind students that we should all think before we act. This is a good idea for many things, not just when treating pests. When we use IPM, we are considering all the information we have, and thinking carefully about the best action to take. It is much easier to use a non-toxic method of pest control, when we have been paying attention to the environment of our home and garden or field.

Evaluate results. Did our treatment work? Do we know why? Can we use it again next time or should we try something else? Treating a plant with a fungicide every year because it gets leaf spots doesn't make sense. Perhaps the plant is in the wrong place.

Placing it in a sunnier and more open area might reduce fungal infections. Evaluate your actions.

Student Worksheet 7

Test Your Knowledge

This lesson aims to teach students a few basics about how people treat pests.

The important idea is to remind them that chemicals, like pesticides and many household products, must be used carefully, and by adults only.

Pesticides can be used and can be helpful, but there may be other tactics to try first.

Students should learn to be responsible for themselves when it comes to safety. They must learn to be aware of things that may potentially cause them harm. This idea goes beyond the use of pesticides.

Answers:

1. Yes
2. Green
3. Red
4. Because we should stop, think, and use the safest methods more often. Use green most of the time and use red methods vary rarely - it is the smallest part of the pyramid

5. NO
6. ALWAYS READ THE LABEL I PROTECT MYSELF.

Student Worksheet 8

Provided for student reference
Lesson
Supplements
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