



# Integrated Pest Management for Grounds

November 2010

For government purchasers

Publication No. 13-07-014

## Responsible Purchasing Attributes

- Reduce toxic chemicals
- Water quality

## Benefits of Purchasing

- Reduces public exposure to toxins in the environment.
- Contributes to improved water quality for human and aquatic life.
- Reduces impacts to stormwater.

## How to Buy

State IPM contracts:  
[00714](#), [01314](#), [01414](#),  
[01514](#)

Integrated pest management (IPM) is an effective approach to pest management and is mandated by [RCW 17.15](#). IPM is defined as a coordinated system of technological and management practices to control pests in a safe, environmentally sound, and economical manner.

Pest control strategies in an IPM program include structural and procedural modification to reduce the food, water, harborage, and access used by pests. Pests are defined, but not limited to insects, rodents, nematodes, snails, slugs, or weeds. It does not include microorganisms.

The elements of an IPM program include:

- Pest prevention.
- Monitoring for signs of pests or pest damage.
- Establishing pest levels to determine when treatment is warranted.
- Reducing pest populations through biological, cultural, mechanical, and chemical control methods.
- Evaluating efficacy of pest treatments.

IPM prevents pests through non-chemical management practices, which include:

- Adding [compost](#) to the soil and keeping plants adequately watered.
- Using native plants.
- Using groundcover or bark to reduce weeds and hold water in the soil.

IPM can significantly improve the quality of stormwater run-off because of the non-chemical management practices.

## Standards

Washington State University provides a certification in IPM for facility managers. In California, a consortium of local governments created standards for IPM known as EcoWise Certified. [EcoWise](#) has excellent materials available on their website.

Carefully framed contract specifications are necessary to find the best IPM service providers. Bid requirements should include:

- Resumes of service technicians or relevant subcontractors who supply technical support.
- A description of experience in the design or implementation of IPM programs, including the types of equipment and products used.
- A list of clients receiving IPM service from the company.
- A description of training provided to clients.
- A summary of all regulatory inspections and violations in the past three to five years and the company's response.
- Auditing protocols to identify opportunities for improvement.



## Success Story: City of Seattle and Counties Partnership

King County and the City of Seattle formed a partnership in 1999 to reduce pesticide use in public buildings and lands. A [preliminary assessment of pesticide use in the City of Seattle](#) led to the development of the [Tri-County IPM Policy, Guidelines and Final Report](#) for King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties. The policy and guidelines were developed to support the Endangered Species Act and listing of Chinook salmon.

**Environmentally Preferable Purchasing**

The Department of Ecology offers tools and resources to make environmentally preferable purchasing easier.

Find out about environmentally preferable products, standards and certifications, law and directives, and more at our website:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/epp/>

**Contact:**

Tina Simcich  
[tinascimcich@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:tinascimcich@ecy.wa.gov)

**Resources**

[ecoPRO Sustainable Landscape Professional Certification Program](#)

[IPM Practitioners Association](#)  
 funded by EPA

[King County Integrated Pest Management Fact Sheet](#)

[Salmon Safe Certification](#)

[University of California, Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program](#)

[Washington Toxics Coalition on Healthy Schools and IPM](#)

[WSU Extension: IPM Program](#)

**Service Performance**

IPM can cost more up front because it requires healthy topsoil, proper plant placement, sufficient composting, and appropriate edge materials to reduce maintenance. Costs are avoided each year from reduced maintenance, water, and pesticide inputs.

IPM reviews microclimates surrounding buildings to evaluate the correct plant type for each area. Use of native plants helps to reduce plant replacement costs and decreases the need for chemical treatments of weeds.

Healthy diverse native plantings reduce and sometimes eliminate the need for pesticides, water, and maintenance. Stronger healthier plants are less vulnerable to pests and fungi. Establishing healthy topsoil before planting reduces the need for fertilizers.

Ecology publication #99-433, *Calculating the True Costs of Pest Control*, provides a simple method for looking at the costs associated with spraying insecticides and herbicides.

U.S. General Administrative Services has drafted a thorough Integrated Pest Management Plan.

Below are samples of native plants of Washington commonly used in building landscapes.



*Oregon grape*



*Salal*

**Laws and Directives**

<p><a href="#">Executive Order 02-03 Sustainable Practices by State Agencies</a></p>	<p>Requires sustainable practices by state agencies. This includes practices that do not sacrifice the needs of future generations and reduce threats to resources such as clean water.</p>
<p><a href="#">RCW 17.15</a></p>	<p>Requires all state agencies that have pest control responsibilities to follow the principles of integrated pest management.</p>
<p><a href="#">RCW 17.21.415</a></p>	<p>Schools and daycares must notify parents of pesticides being used on premises.</p>

To ask about the availability of this document in a version for the visually impaired call the Waste 2 Resources Program at 360-407-6900. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.