

City of Petaluma  
Parks & Recreation Department  
Integrated Pest Management Program

Integrated pest management (IPM) is a pest management strategy that focuses on long-term prevention or suppression of pest problems with minimum impact on human health, the environment, and nontarget organisms. Preferred pest management techniques include encouraging naturally occurring biological control, using alternate plant species or varieties that resist pests, selecting pesticides with a lower toxicity to humans or nontarget organisms; adoption of cultivating, pruning, fertilizing, or irrigation practices that reduce pest problems; or changing the habitat to make it incompatible with pest development. Broad spectrum pesticides are used as a last resort when careful monitoring indicates they are needed according to preestablished guidelines. When treatments are necessary, the least toxic and most target-specific pesticides are chosen. Implementing an integrated pest management program requires a thorough understanding of pests, their life histories, their environmental requirements and natural enemies as well as establishment of a regular, systematic program for surveying pests, their damage and/or evidence of their presence.

The City of Petaluma Parks & Recreation Department is committed to the principals and techniques of IPM and the reduction of pesticide use. The Department is committed to the following goals.

- Employees as applicators are educated regarding current pesticides, their hazards, and applications.
- To educate employees about pest management problems, solution, and IPM principals and techniques.
- Eliminate use of all category I & II pesticides (Danger, Warning).
- Maintain pesticide use reporting and record keeping.
- Use safer alternatives whenever economically feasible.
- Review all new landscape installations to eliminate pest problems.
- Eliminate the use of all insecticides.
- Eliminate the use of pesticides in turf areas unless the area is closed down for renovation.
- Eliminate the use of pesticides in and around (within 30 ft.) all playground areas.
- Post all areas to be treated 48 hours in advance and 48 hours after treatment.
- All landscape contractors doing work on City of Petaluma owned property are required to adhere to the City of Petaluma's IPM Program principals and techniques when economically possible.