

Connecticut Environmental Council

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Written Testimony of
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HB 5418, An Act Concerning Integrated Pest Management Plans for Municipal Facilities

Friday, March 12, 2010
General Assembly's Environment Committee

Good afternoon Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee, my name is Doug Williams, I am the President of the Connecticut Environmental Council (CTEC) in addition I served on DEP's stakeholder committee that spent numerous hours reviewing possible alternatives to the current Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program for schools. I appreciate this opportunity to offer my comments on behalf of CTEC on House Bill 5418, An Act Concerning Integrated Pest Management Plans for Municipal Facilities.

In the way of background, CTEC is an association supported by the Connecticut Grounds Keepers Association, the Connecticut Irrigation Contractors Association, the Connecticut Golf Course Superintendents Association, and the Connecticut Arborist.

As a member of DEP's stakeholder committee, we were not able to reach a consensus on a new plan for the Environment Committee to consider during this session. However from the onset, the stakeholder committee did agree that we cannot return to the time prior to passage of IPM in 2006, furthermore the committee agreed that an outright ban on the use of lawn care pesticides is detrimental and would lead to the uncontrolled growth of pest populations.

Since the passage of the 2006 IPM law, Connecticut contractors have been applying lawn care pesticides on school athletic fields and playgrounds according to IPM plans at both public and private schools (8th grade and under). By state statute IPM calls for "the judicious use of pesticides to maintain a pest population at or below an acceptable level, while decreasing the use of pesticides." As a result of IPM's judicious methods of applying lawn care pesticides, over the past four years tons of active ingredients have been withheld from use on school grounds. IPM has proven to be safe, reliable and affordable way of applying lawn care pesticide, while protecting the financial investments towns have made in athletic fields and school grounds.

The Environmental Protection Agency has recently weighed in on this issue by recommending "that schools use IPM to reduce pesticide risk and exposure to children. Put simply, IPM is a safer and frequently less costly option for effective pest management in a school community." The EPA plan calls for IPM in all schools in the United States by 2015. The Connecticut General Assembly should be commended for the establishment of IPM program for schools during the 2006 session, a full 9 years ahead of the federal government's goal for schools.

In conclusion, CTEC would request and support an amendment to House Bill 5418 that would remove the July 1, 2010 sunset and expand IPM to all public and private schools as well as municipal parks and buildings.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify, I'd be glad to answer any questions you may have at this time.



Pesticides: Controlling Pests

You are here: [EPA Home](#) [Pesticides](#) [Controlling Pests](#) Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Schools

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Schools

Protecting Children in Schools from Pests and Pesticides



Pesticides are powerful tools for controlling pests.

However, pesticides need to be used carefully and judiciously, especially when used in sensitive areas where children are present. Children are more sensitive than adults to pesticides. Young children can have greater exposure to pesticides from crawling, exploring, or other hand-to-mouth activities.

Resources

[Healthy School Environments](#)
[Pesticides and Food: What IPM means](#)

The EPA recommends that schools use integrated pest management (IPM) to reduce pesticide risk and exposure to children. Put simply, IPM is a safer, and usually less costly option for effective pest management in a school community. A school IPM program uses common sense strategies to reduce sources of food, water and shelter for pests in your school buildings and grounds. An IPM program takes advantage of all pest management strategies, including the judicious and careful use of pesticides when necessary.

Since children spend so much of their day at school, integrated pest management provides an opportunity to create a safer learning environment - - to reduce children's exposure to pesticides as well as eliminate pests. EPA is encouraging school officials to adopt IPM practices to reduce children's exposure to pesticides.

On this page:

- [Is There a Safer Way to Control Pests?](#)
- [How Do You Know If Your School Is Really Using IPM?](#)
- [How You Can Get Started](#)
- [What Organizations Are Saying about IPM](#)
- [Common Pests in School Settings](#)
- [School IPM Programs Where You Live and Related Information](#)

Is There a Safer Way to Control Pests?

School administrators and others who have decision-making responsibilities for pest management in and around school buildings and grounds should know that safer options exist.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a safer, and usually less costly option for effective pest management in the school community. A school IPM program employs commonsense strategies to reduce sources of food, water and shelter for pests in your school buildings and

grounds. IPM programs take advantage of all pest management strategies, including judicious careful use of pesticides when necessary.

How Do You Know if Your School is Really Using IPM?

You can make sure that:

- The problem or pest is identified before taking action.
- Vegetation, shrubs and wood mulch should be kept at least one foot away from structures.
- Cracks and crevices in walls, floors and pavement are either sealed or eliminated.
- Lockers and desks are emptied and thoroughly cleaned at least twice yearly.
- Food-contaminated dishes, utensils, surfaces are cleaned by the end of each day.
- Garbage cans and dumpsters are cleaned regularly.
- Litter is collected and disposed of properly at least once a week.
- Fertilizers should be applied several times (e.g., spring, summer, fall) during the year, rather than one heavy application.
- If pesticides are necessary, use spot treatments rather than area-wide applications.

How You Can Get Started

There are several resources available that provide excellent reference information where you can learn more about Integrated Pest Management, and get the tools to start an IPM program at your school.

[HealthySEAT Version 2 - Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool.](#)

EPA has published a brochure titled "**Protecting Children in Schools from Pests and Pesticides.**" The brochure provides resources, success stories and examples of IPM practices for safer pest management within our Nation's schools. A copy of the brochure may be obtained on-line by contacting the [National Service Center for Environmental Publications \(NSCEP\)](#), or by phone at 1-800-490-9198. The EPA publication number is EPA-735-F-02-014.

The popular **EPA booklet**, "[Pest Control in the School Environment: Adopting IPM](#)" is designed to encourage and assist school officials in examining and improving their pest management practices. It identifies ways to reduce the use of pesticides in school buildings and landscapes, as well as alternative methods of managing pests commonly found in schools. A copy of the booklet may be obtained on-line by contacting the [NSCEP](#), or by phone at 1-800-490-9198. The EPA publication number is EPA 735-F-93-012.

Supported by EPA, the [University of Florida's IPM in Schools](#) [EXIT Disclaimer] provides a wealth of valuable, free, useful information for school administrators, staff members, pest managers, and parents to start an IPM program.

[National School IPM Information Source](#) [EXIT Disclaimer] from the University of Florida web site provides IPM resource information by state. The [EPA Regional school IPM](#) contact can provide you with the latest information on school IPM.

[Integrated Pest Management for Schools: A How-to Manual](#) contains basic information about IPM in schools, details on developing an IPM Program, and IPM strategies for managing common pests in schools.

EPA Supported Technical Resource Centers for IPM in Schools and Day Cares: The following centers have been created to provide tools, training and technical support for schools and day care centers to start an IPM program. Training opportunities, IPM principles, and specific management techniques are available for custodial and maintenance staff.

- [Purdue University's IPM Technical Resource Center](#) [EXIT Disclaimer] - serves Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin, 1-877-668-8476.

- [Texas A&M University's IPM Technical Resource Center](#) [EXIT Disclaimer] - serves Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma, 1-877-747-6872.

Video: Integrated Pest Management in Schools (A Better Method) explains in simple language what IPM is and how to get it started. Available on-line from the [Safer Pest Control Project](#) [EXIT Disclaimer], or by phone at 312-641-5575.

Video: SP-292 ABCs of IPM Training Series is designed to introduce IPM concepts and help school district personnel implement IPM programs, and is available from the [Texas Agricultural Extension Service](#). [EXIT Disclaimer]

IPM school contacts:

Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division (7511P)
Environmental Stewardship Branch / [Sherry Glick](mailto:glick.sherry@epa.gov) (glick.sherry@epa.gov)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

For outreach materials including "[Read the Label First](#)" contact our publication center the [NSCEP](#).

If you have a question about a pesticide, contact: [National Pesticide Information Center \(NPIC\)](#) at 1-800-858-7378, or by [e-mail inquiry](mailto:npic@ace.orst.edu) (npic@ace.orst.edu) [EXIT Disclaimer].

What Organizations are Saying about IPM

EPA is helping schools understand and implement IPM by distributing printed publications and supporting projects that demonstrate variable and sustainable school IPM programs. Here are some examples of successful IPM demonstrations:

"Monroe County Indiana achieved a 92 percent reduction in pesticide use, enabling them to also direct their cost savings to hire a district-wide coordinator to oversee pest management in the schools. As a result of this achievement, Monroe County was awarded the Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention. The Monroe County IPM Program has now evolved into the Monroe School IPM Model. By using this Model, the emphasis is placed on minimizing the use of broad spectrum chemicals, and on maximizing the use of sanitation, biological controls and selective methods of application." -- **Monroe County Community Schools Corporation, Indiana**

"In the Vista de las Cruces School in California, pest management costs went from \$1,740 a year to \$270 (plus labor) for two years." -- **Santa Barbara, California**

"The Kyrene School District reduced pesticide applications by 90 percent and kept pest populations below 85 percent of their original levels by using IPM. Due to the overwhelming success, their IPM program was expanded to all the Kyrene

district schools in spring 2001 (27 schools)." -- **Kyrene School District Facilities Manager, Arizona**

"In managing pests, the emphasis should be placed on minimizing the use of broad spectrum chemicals, and on maximizing the use of sanitation, biological controls and selective methods of application." -- **American Public Health Association**

"A healthy school environment is essential. All students and staff have a right to learn and work in a healthy school environment, safe from air pollution, radiation, sound and mechanical stress, and chemical exposures." -- **National Association of School Nurses**

"National PTA supports efforts [IPM implementation] at the federal, state, and local levels to eliminate the environmental health hazards caused by pesticide use in and around schools." -- **National Parent Teacher Association**

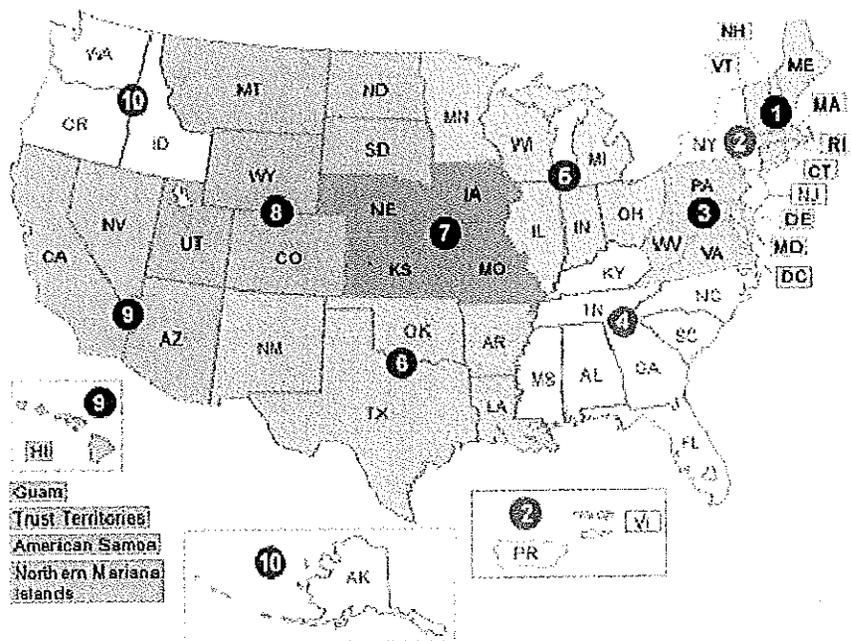
Common Pests in School Settings

Some pests common in schools can harm both children and adults.

- Flies and cockroaches may spread disease.
- Cockroaches can cause allergies and asthma attacks.
- Yellow jacket stings are painful and can be life-threatening to those with allergies.
- Spiders may inflict painful bites and some may pose a health risk.
- Mice may contaminate food, trigger asthma attacks and cause structural damage.
- Termites cause structural damage.
- Low risk esthetic problems include weeds invading playgrounds; ants swarming and fruit flies in the kitchen

School IPM Programs Where You Live and Related Information

Connecticut



<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/#bkmrk8>
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