

School IPM 2015

Reducing Pest Problems and Pesticide Hazards in Our Nation's Schools

School IPM 2015 Newsletter: August 2011

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Please circulate to facility managers and interested school staff.

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What's New This Month

The US EPA and the Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities (OSHC) released three new grant opportunities:

- [Capacity Building for Sustainable Communities](#)
- [Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grants](#)
- [Community Challenge Grants](#)

*View this newsletter as a [PDF](#).

Greetings from School IPM 2015!

Every day, 49 million children attend school in the United States, served by nearly seven million teachers and staff. But they're not alone. Schools are also frequented by a number of pests including cockroaches, mice, dust mites and more. Asthma is epidemic among children, impacting nearly 6% of school children nationally with rates as high as 25% in urban centers. Cockroaches are potent asthma triggers.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a prevention-based, highly effective approach proven to reduce pest complaints and pesticide use by up to 90% in schools and other public buildings. IPM practices such as sanitation and exclusion also improve food safety, fire safety and energy conservation. Our newsletter highlights real-life examples of IPM in practice and can help you start an IPM program in your school district. For more information, visit www.schoolipm2015.com.

[Pesticide Restrictions Provide New Opportunities for IPM](#)

In the wake of laws passed in New York State and Connecticut that restrict the use of pesticides on school grounds including athletic fields, facility managers are transitioning to a "natural" pest management program in order to deal with weeds, insects and turf diseases.

Effective on October 1, 2009 for day care centers and on July 1, 2010 for K-8 schools, the [Connecticut law](#) bans all EPA-registered pesticides labeled for use on lawn and/or ornamental sites, including fungicides, herbicides and insecticides. [New York State's Child Safe Playing Fields Act](#) became effective in May 2011 and poses similar restrictions on school and day care turf management programs.

Simply eliminating pesticide applications, without shifting to a different set of practices and products, is unlikely to produce attractive, functional turf. A number of resources are available to help facility managers make a successful transition. A fact sheet published by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) entitled [Maintaining Quality Turfgrass under CT's Lawn Care Pesticide Ban](#) presents IPM strategies including mechanical and cultural controls, such as overseeding, aerating and adjusting mowing heights, that can be used in place of banned pesticides to grow healthy turfgrass. Jennifer Grant, assistant director of the New York State IPM Program, attests, "Overseeding, or applying grass seed on existing turf, makes it more difficult for weeds to become established and compensates for any slowdown in the turf's reproduction." Turf varieties should be drought tolerant and resistant to disease and wear. Aeration delivers oxygen to

- Join the [SchoolIPM listserv](#) to ask questions, learn from others and share successes and challenges



Upcoming Events

August 24, 2011

US EPA's Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Tools for Schools group is hosting a FREE webinar on radon & schools
[More Information](#)

August 28-31, 2011

55th Annual Association of Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials (ASPCRO) Conference, Mobile, AL
[More Information](#)

September 14-15, 2011

Texas School IPM Coordinator Training Kileen, TX
[More Information](#)

September 20, 2011

The Pennsylvania Early Learning Keys to Quality's "Eco Healthy Futures for Child Care Centers" workshop Media, PA
Registration at www.pakeys.org. Search for "Eco Healthy Futures"

October 5, 2011

California DPR IPM Workshops for school IPM coordinators Norwalk, CA
[More Information](#)

turf roots and beneficial soil organisms, relieves soil compaction and improves water infiltration. Higher mowing heights allow grass to grow taller and shade out weeds.

The Connecticut DEP recommends that soil be tested annually to better predict which fertilizers and soil amendments are needed to keep turfgrass healthy and minimize fertilizer cost and losses to runoff. There are no restrictions on the use of fertilizers, although any combination fertilizer-pesticide products that contain an herbicide, insecticide or fungicide are not allowed.

As with any new approach, those in transition are likely to experience start-up costs for training and equipment, but long-term costs are not necessarily higher. According to a [2010 report](#) by Charles Osborne and Doug Wood, "A natural turf management program can result in savings of greater than 25% compared to a conventional turf management program." Irrigation costs are also reduced by the adoption of natural turf management. According to Osborne and Wood, "Estimates of irrigation reduction for natural turf programs range from 33% to more than 50%" because of "deep root growth and moisture retention by organic matter."

In addition to publications and online resources, there are regular regional school IPM workshops and training sessions that facility managers can attend. Most recently, Donna Ellis, senior extension educator and co-chair of the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) at the University of Connecticut, hosted an IPM training workshop called [Adjusting to Pesticide Ban Legislation: K-8 Grounds Turfgrass Management Workshop](#). More than 100 attendees learned about the new law and improved their knowledge and skills in turf management. The event featured outdoor hands-on sessions on evaluating turf and operating equipment for overseeding and aeration.

Not all pesticide products are prohibited for use. US EPA lists specific criteria for "[minimum risk pesticides](#)" and products meeting these criteria remain acceptable for use on school and day care grounds in Connecticut and New York.



EPA Announces PestWise Awards

The US EPA recently announced an extension of its initial call for nominations for the [2011 PestWise Awards](#). According to the EPA, "PestWise Awards foster collaborative innovations among PESP stakeholders and highlight innovative IPM solutions to pest management problems." These awards are divided into three competitive award categories-IPM Innovator, PESP Shining Star and Sustained Excellence in IPM. EPA will issue two awards for each category.

The IPM Innovator award recognizes organizations that effectively accomplish risk reduction and promote IPM outside of their own internal operations. Non-PESP members may apply for the IPM Innovator award. The PESP Shining Star award will go to PESP Silver or Gold Members for their implementation of IPM principles, including risk reduction, education and promotion and the economic benefits of IPM. The Sustained Excellence in IPM award acknowledges only PESP Silver and Gold Members who have already received multiple PESP awards, specifically for their continued commitment to IPM.

Applications for these awards are due by **August 19, 2011**. For Shining Star and Sustained Excellence award applications, please visit <http://www.tfaforms.com/208520> and for the IPM Innovator award, visit

October 10, 2011
Tennessee School IPM Workshop
for school staff
Maryville, TN
[More Information](#)

November 13-16, 2011
The annual Entomology Society of America (ESA) conference features a number of sessions on school IPM
Reno, NV
[More Information](#)

November 16-17, 2011
Texas Integrated Pest Management Affiliate for Public Schools (TIPMAPS)
IPM Symposium,
San Marcos, TX
[More Information](#)

March 27-29, 2012
7th International IPM Symposium
Memphis, TN
[More Information](#)

Quick Links

- [School IPM 2015 Homepage](#)
- [Get Involved!](#)
- [About School IPM 2015](#)
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<http://www.tfaforms.com/208526>. Questions about any of these awards can be directed to Raderrio Wilkins at wilkins.raderrio@epa.gov or 1-703-308-1259.



New Facility Masters Webcast and Nationwide Listserv



Facility Masters Webcast Series

The [Facility Masters Webcast Series](#), founded by Roger Young, has provided facility managers and others with information on best practices in preventive maintenance and energy management for the past two years.

As part of this series, Facility Masters will host an interactive webcast entitled "Effective Integrated Pest Management for Safeguarding Kitchens, Cafeterias and Classrooms" on **Wednesday, August 17, 2011 from 12:00 pm - 1:15pm EDT**. Just in time for the start of the new school year, this webcast will detail best practices to identify, eliminate and prevent common pests and pest-conducive conditions in kitchens, cafeterias and classrooms. Attendees will also learn ways to improve their IPM program by scheduling and tracking regular inspections of these areas. For more information about this educational webcast and to register to attend, please visit <https://cc.readytalk.com/r/5cjxajftf1e8>.

In addition to the webcasts, Facility Masters created a **FREE** nationwide listserv to help educational professionals ask questions, get answers and share best practices for operating and maintaining quality learning environments that promote student health and achievement. To subscribe to the listserv, send a blank email to join-facilitymasters@talk.netatlantic.com.

Questions regarding the webcast or email listserv can be directed to Roger Young at roger@k12masters.com or 1-978-886-6093.