

# FACT SHEET

## Thurston County Requirements for Integrated Pest Management Plans

### **WHAT:**

Integrated Pest Management Plans (IPMP) are required by Thurston County for certain land use projects located in a Category I or II Aquifer Recharge Area located in areas where drinking water sources are vulnerable to contamination.

IPMPs are required for:

- 1) Subdivisions of 10 lots or greater (excluding large lots).
- 2) Any land use project that incorporates maintained open space areas totaling more than five acres.
- 3) All land use projects located within a delineated well head capture zone for a group A public water supply.

Changes to the IPMP will be submitted to Thurston County for review and approval prior to implementation.

### **WHY:**

The goal of an IPMP is to develop and manage individual homesite landscapes and open space areas using best management practices that limit the use of pesticides. Limiting pesticide use will reduce ground and surface water contamination and reduce human exposure to pesticides.

An IPMP assists residents and professional landscape personnel by describing maintenance practices that are the least damaging to the environment. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an approach to pest and vegetation management that utilizes regular monitoring to determine if and when treatments are needed. IPM emphasizes physical, mechanical, cultural, and biological tactics to prevent intolerable damage. If pesticides must be used, select products that have the least impact to the environment and least toxic to human health.

### **HOW:**

Below are recommended elements of an IPMP:

- I. Provide a local environmental perspective to the IPMP: Explain to the homeowner and residential development manager why this IPMP is important to protect nearby natural resources. It is helpful to include in this section:
  - A. Describe nearby sensitive areas such as groundwater, streams, and lakes.

- B. Describe activities homeowners do that impact the quality of nearby natural resource areas.
- II. Describe IPM principals for landscape management that can help reduce impacts to surface and groundwater. These principals include:
- A. Prevention: Describe activities the developer, homeowner and landscape professional will perform to prevent pest and disease problems. List local resources where the homeowner may find assistance in learning how to prevent pest problems. This section may describe activities such as:
- Importance of soil preparation and soil testing.
  - Proper site construction by developer.
  - Importance of landscape design.
  - Importance of the proper choice of plants.
  - Proper planting techniques.
  - The use of mulch and weed barriers in shrub beds.
- B Identify the Problem: Describe the importance of identifying the problem before choosing a control action. List resources where the homeowner may find assistance in identifying problems.
- C. Inspection: Describe the importance of regular landscape inspections for pest and disease symptoms.
- D. Threshold for control: Describe the extent of the pest or vegetation problem when action must be taken to prevent unacceptable damage.
- E. Appropriate control actions: Describe effective least toxic controls available to homeowners.
- F. Evaluate results: Determine whether the control was effective to help on future problems.
- G. Best management activities such as:
1. Irrigation: Describe watering practices that will provide adequate amounts of water to keep a healthy landscape while conserving its use.
  2. Fertilizer use: Describe proper applications of fertilizers for a healthy landscape while avoiding contaminating surface and ground water. Emphasize the advantages of using natural or slow-release fertilizers.

3. Weed control: Describe weed control techniques that are available to the homeowner that emphasizes non-chemical techniques. When herbicides are used, recommend spot treatment; discourage pre-emergent and broadcast type chemicals; and apply when there is no wind to avoid off target impacts.
4. Disease control: Describe best management practices that prevent plant and turf diseases. Only least toxic fungicides should be applied to those plants or turf areas where problems exist.
5. Insect control: Describe best management practices that prevent insect problems and recommend treatment thresholds. Only least toxic insecticides should be applied to those plants or turf areas where the problem exists.

III Storage, disposal and handling of pesticides and other household products: Describe proper storage practices for toxic material and proper disposal of leftover and unwanted pesticides and their empty containers.

IV. Best Management Practices for maintaining community property: Many developments have roadsides, stormwater facilities, and other community amenities that need to be properly maintained. Include in this section best management practices for these facilities.

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