



ADOPTION OF A STATE DEFINITION OF INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)

BACKGROUND

The New York State Turfgrass Association supports state legislation establishing a definition of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). New York's IPM Program, one of the best programs throughout the US, includes a "toolbox" of pest control tactics, coordinated into a management strategy guided by cost/benefit analyses that take into account the interests of and impacts on producers, society and the environment.

NYSTA PERSPECTIVE

The United States Environmental Protection Agency describes IPM as "an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common-sense practices. IPM programs use current, comprehensive information on the life cycles of pests and their interaction with the environment. This information, in combination with available pest control methods is used to manage pest damage by the most economical means, and with the least possible hazard to people, property and the environment. The IPM approach can be applied to both agricultural and non-agricultural settings, such as the home, garden and workplace. IPM takes advantage of all appropriate pest management options including, but not limited to, the judicious use of pesticides."

Unfortunately several state bills have been introduced to effectively define IPM as a method that essentially eliminates the use of all pesticides.

Senator Young and Assemblywoman Gunther have introduced legislation (S524/A526) defining Integrated Pest Management as:

"Integrated Pest Management means a systematic approach to managing pests that utilizes a diversity of management options to minimize health, environmental and economic risks and impacts. These options may include biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools to prevent pest infestations or reduce them to acceptable levels."

This is the same definition recognized by:

- Food Quality Protection Act of 1996.
- The National Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Network.
- Empire State Council of Agricultural Organizations.
- Federal Code 136r-1. Integrated Pest Management.

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The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation uses a definition that is closely aligned with the definition in the Young/Gunther bill. The definition can be found in NYS DEC's Part 325 Rules and Regulations: Relating to the Application of Pesticides under Section 325.1 (a) Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

RECOMMENDATION

- We support S524 (Young)/ A526 (Gunther), legislation that adopts the following definition of Integrated Pest Management:

“Integrated Pest Management means a systematic approach to managing pests that utilizes a diversity of management options to minimize health, environmental and economic risks and impacts. These options may include biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools to prevent pest infestations or reduce them to acceptable levels.”

- We oppose bills that would establish a definition of Integrated Pest Management for the purpose of restricting or eliminating the use of pesticides. Such as Zebrowski (A1455) and Englebright (A5569/A6678).
- We support the Executive Budget recommendation for \$1,000,000 in the Environmental Protection Fund for Agricultural IPM.
- We support the Executive Budget recommendation of \$550,000 in the Environmental Protection Fund for Community IPM.