

# Integrated Pest Management for Yards and Gardens



## What Is IPM?

Integrated pest management (IPM) is a systematic approach to managing pests focusing on long-term prevention or suppression with minimal impact on human health and the environment.

## Benefits of IPM Around the Home

- Reduces the need for pesticides by using several pest management methods.
- Well-maintained homes and lawns better withstand damage from pests.
- Balances proper and minimal use of chemical pesticides with the need to manage pests.
- Everyone lives in a watershed. Pollution in local waterways will be reduced if the water leaving your home contains the least amount of pesticides possible.
- Helps protect the environment from excessive or unnecessary pesticide applications.

## Steps to Implement IPM

- Routinely check around your home and landscaping for pests or signs of their activity. Check cabinets and other hard-to-reach places.
- Re-check those areas around your home where pests were a problem to see if they've been resolved.
- Inspect during the day and at night, when some pests like cockroaches and mice are active. Examine new plants for insects, checking both sides of the leaves.
- Many things we may think of as pests may not be causing any harm. Identify the pest and decide if there really is a problem on the UC Davis website at [www.imp.ucdavis.edu](http://www.imp.ucdavis.edu) or visit [www.ipmaccess.com](http://www.ipmaccess.com)
- Take action to manage pests using IPM methods.

## Tips for Managing Pests

Below are some insect-specific IPM tips for managing common pests in and around your home and garden:

- **Carpenter ants** often excavate wet or damaged wood. Fix the problem that is causing the moist wood, then replace damaged wood. Obtain a bait specific for carpenter ants.
- **Fleas** can be removed by vacuuming regularly and placing the contents in an outdoor receptacle. Seek treatment for the infested animal, preferably by a veterinarian.
- **Flies** can be minimized by fixing screens, eliminating breeding areas (garbage, grass piles) and hanging fly paper.
- **Aphids** can be washed off with a strong jet of water.


- **Bats** eat hundreds of insects, including mosquitoes, each night. Inspect the exterior of your structure for openings larger than 1/4-inch in height and seal them, light your attic and offer a “bat house” away from areas of human activity to avoid direct contact.
- **Mice** can be controlled by closing any openings in foundations that are larger than 1/4-inch in diameter, using a snap trap or glue board and keeping an energetic cat as a pet.
- **Paper wasps** control many caterpillars, aphids and other pests; they sting primarily when defending their nest. Knock down nests early in the season and scrape away attachment sites using a stick, or strong stream of water. Check weekly and repeat the process if necessary.
- **Carpenter bees** are gentle, beneficial pollinators. Keep trim wood painted or varnished, fill holes with putty in the fall and repaint or varnish and replace structurally unsound tunneled boards.
- **Grubs** can be tolerable up to 10 per square foot (peel back one square foot of lawn to check). Try parasitic nematodes or milky spore disease to reduce grub populations along with other management tactics.
- **Ticks** can be discouraged by keeping grassy areas mowed. Wear light-colored clothing tucked into socks at the ankles and check yourself regularly when outside and then at home. For ticks to transmit diseases, they must attach and feed for many hours.
- **Structural issues** Check for dry rot; identify poor



drainage around the foundation and leaking faucets or pipes that create excess moisture, promoting pest problems.

- **Grow pest-resistant shrubs and trees** Choices should be well suited to Rocklin’s soil and climate. Consult a local nursery or the Plant Selection page of the Sacramento River Friendly Landscaping website at [www.msa.saccounty.net/sactostormwater/RFL](http://www.msa.saccounty.net/sactostormwater/RFL).
- **Avoid injury to trunks** from lawn mowers, weed eaters or other equipment that enable pests to gain footholds.
- **Destroy diseased plant materials** and clean up plant debris at the end of the season.
- **Encourage beneficial insects** which kill pests by growing large, showy composite flowers for them to land on and feed.
- **Use alternative pesticides.** Insecticidal soaps are effective against mealy bugs, whiteflies, scale and some other pests. *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) is a bacterium that combats leaf-eating caterpillars and is sold in most garden stores.
- **Grow healthy plants.** Pay attention to organic matter, watering and other conditions for healthy plants. Don’t grow closely related plants (e.g., tomatoes, peppers, eggplant) in the same location each year. Rotation helps prevent insect infestations, the spread of diseases and the depletion of soil nutrients.





**Did You Know?**  
Malathion is toxic to aquatic life at 340 parts per trillion