

SCHOOL FACILITIES

Integrated Vegetation and Pest Management

The Vashon Island School District follows an Integrated Pest Management program for managing vegetation and pests. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an ecological approach to suppressing pest populations (i.e., weeds, insects, diseases, etc.) in which alternative pest controls are considered, and, where practical, implemented before chemical controls are used, so that pests are kept at acceptable levels in effective, economical, and environmentally safe ways.

Vashon Island School District will manage vegetation and pests in a manner that: utilizes an ecological approach; minimizes the use of pesticides; minimizes risk to human health and the environment; and considers community values in establishing standards of maintenance for Vashon Island School District properties.

Definitions

1. **IPM Program:** The components of an IPM program are:

Threshold and Action Levels -

- A. Threshold level refers to the point in growth of a vegetation or pest population where it will cause an unacceptable impact on: public safety, recreation, or health; natural and/or managed ecosystems; aesthetic values; economic damage to desirable plants; the integrity, function, or service life of facilities.
- B. Action level is the level of development of a vegetation or pest population at a specific site at which action must be taken to prevent the population from reaching the threshold level.

Selection of Optimal Strategies - The criteria, not necessarily in order of importance, for selecting treatment tactics and developing pest management strategies include:

- A. Minimizes disruptions of natural controls;
- B. Minimizes hazards to human health;
- C. Minimizes negative impacts to non-target organisms;
- D. Minimizes damage to the general environment;
- E. Preserves natural or managed ecosystems;
- F. Likely to produce long-term reductions in pest control requirements;
- G. Effective implementation is operationally feasible;
- H. Cost effectiveness in the short and long term.

Timing - Involves applying a treatment action during a vulnerable time in the life cycle of the vegetation or pest while minimizing impact on natural predators and/or other non-target organisms.

Monitoring - Involves the regular surveying of sites and/or features to understand and identify the location and extent of potential pest management problems.

Recordkeeping - Involves maintenance of written records of pest problems and solutions used.

Evaluation - Involves analysis of treatment strategies and prescriptions to help determine the effectiveness of the control program. These records are useful in developing future pest management plans.

2. **IPM Practices:** Integrated pest control plans that are specific to a variety of pest management situations and/or pests and vegetation; these plans are based on the principles of IPM.
3. **Pest:** Any organism, including plants, animals and diseases, which, by the situation or size of its population, adversely interferes with the aesthetic, health, environmental, functional, or economic goals of humans.
4. **Pesticide:** Any substance registered by the U.S. government as a pesticide.

Adopted: _____

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The Vashon Island School District will implement Integrated Pest Management programs in accordance with the requirements of Policy 9342: Integrated Vegetation and Pest Management.

IPM Practices

IPM Practices will be developed by the IPM Coordinating Committee, and recommended to and approved by the School Board of Directors. IPM Practices will be developed for the primary pest control issues anticipated by the district. For each pest control issue, the IPM Practices will set out: threshold and action levels, pest management strategy, timing of management activities, and monitoring plan.

Notification and Timing

At the beginning of each school year, the Safety Officer will provide written information to all school district staff, students, and parents regarding anticipated pest control activities within the school district. The Safety Officer may distribute amended written information as appropriate. This information will include the names of all compounds that may be used. An approximate date of anticipated application will be listed and a telephone number for parents or eligible students (18 years old or older) to call to access exact dates. By 5 P.M. on Friday of each week, the message on this line will contain information on planned fertilizer or pesticide applications that may be made in the coming school week. Signs will be posted at least 48 hours before any application, except in a case where the Safety Officer or his/her designee determines that immediate action is required. If immediate action is required, signs will still be posted.

The pesticide notification sign must be at least 8.5 inches by 11 inches using bold, uppercase 12-point type with the following information: "WARNING PESTICIDES" as the header; the trade and generic name of the pesticide; the date and time of application; the rate of application; the area to be treated; the name and phone number of the contact person for the application; the name and phone number of the responsible party where the pesticide label and material safety data sheets may be obtained; and a boxed-off warning stating: "CAUTION: Individuals taking medication, pregnant women, infants, children, and individuals with respiratory or heart disease, chemical sensitivities, or weakened immune systems may be particularly susceptible to adverse health effects due to pesticide exposure."

Any pesticide application will be timed to minimize adverse effects to human health and beneficial organisms. Any pest control activities will be conducted in consideration of effects on classroom activities.

Roles and Responsibilities

IPM Coordinating Committee: The IPM Coordinating Committee will include the Groundskeeper, Safety Officer, the Maintenance staff, and up to two each of the following: parent representatives, community representatives, teacher representatives, and student representatives. The IPM Coordinating Committee will select a chairperson.

The IPM Coordinating Committee will:

1. Decide whether or not to recommend IPM practices using the following criteria:
 - A. principles of IPM;
 - B. need for control of the pest or vegetation management problem;
 - C. whether the use of a pesticide is a necessary element of the IPM practice;
 - D. whether the IPM practice minimizes impacts on human health and the environment, will be effective in the long-term, and is cost effective.
2. Evaluate and rank all pesticide products proposed for use by the Maintenance staff. The criteria for ranking and approval, not necessarily in the order of importance, are as follows:
 - A. completeness of information;
 - B. evaluation of application methods, scale of application, elements of exposure, and buffer zones;
 - C. registration by the EPA;
 - D. human health effects;
 - E. wildlife and water quality impacts;
 - F. mobility and persistence in the environment;
 - G. potential impacts to non-target organisms;
 - H. active and inert ingredients;
 - I. pesticide classification.
3. Provide to the School Board of Directors an evaluation and recommendations for modifications of the IPM program and practices.

Groundskeeper: The Groundskeeper (or superintendent's designee) will:

1. Coordinate the compliance of the IPM landscape management program with applicable laws, rules, regulations and policies.
2. Coordinate development of landscape and engineering design criteria for use in facility and landscape development projects.
3. Be responsible for final approval of all pesticide applications.

Maintenance Staff: The Maintenance staff will:

1. Perform research needed to facilitate implementation of the landscape IPM program.
2. Coordinate development of site inventories and pest control priorities for each school.

Principal: Each principal will:

1. Inform staff, students and parents about the IPM program.

Safety Officer: The Safety Officer will:

1. Coordinate training, along with the Maintenance staff, of all staff members involved in pest control activities. Training will occur on at least a yearly basis.
2. Implement the annual student, parent and staff notification plan.