

UNE's Integrated Pest Management Program

Pests can pose significant problems to people, property, and the environment. Pesticides pose similar risks. UNE holds environmental stewardship as a Core Value and seeks to protect the environment from harmful chemicals, while also protecting its university community from the harms of pests. By reducing reliance on pesticides and incorporating low risk control options, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) reduces both pests and pesticide risks. It is therefore the guiding principle of the UNE Grounds Department to incorporate IPM procedures for controlling pests. The intention of this program description is to familiarize the university community with the current practices of the IPM program at UNE.

Integrated Pest Management Procedures

IPM relies on pest monitoring and the most economical and least hazardous combination of cultural, physical, biological, and/or chemical controls to prevent unacceptable levels of pest activity and damage. The full range of management options, including no action at all, are considered when presented with a pest issue. The decision to use a pesticide is based on a review of all other available options and a determination that these options are not acceptable or are not feasible. Non-chemical pest management methods are used whenever possible. Direct action will be used only when specific pest thresholds are reached. When it is determined that a pesticide must be used, the least hazardous material and method of application is chosen. Pesticide applications are timed to minimize their impact on campus grounds. All pesticides are handled according to state and federal law.

Pest Management Objectives

- Maintain a safe and sustainable campus environment
- Protect human health by suppressing pests that threaten public health and safety
- Reduce exposure of humans to pesticides
- Reduce or prevent pest damage to university properties
- Reduce environmental pollution
- Reduce the costs of pest management
- Enhance the quality of life for students, faculty, staff, and visitors

IPM Coordination

- UNE delegates the following responsibilities to the appropriate personnel:
- Record all pest sightings by school staff and students through the workorder system
- Record all pesticide use and make those records available through our on-site licensed pesticide applicator
- Make pesticide labels and Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for all products applied available through our on-site licensed pesticide applicator and our Environmental Health & Safety Department
- Coordinate management activities with pest control contractors through our Facilities Management team when applicable
- Approve appropriate pesticide applications-methods, materials, timing, and location through our on-site licensed pesticide applicator

- Assure that all of a pest control contractor's recommendations on maintenance and sanitation are carried out where feasible and when applicable
- Post and notify the university community of pesticide application through our on-site licensed pesticide applicator
- Evaluate the university's progress in implementing the IPM procedures through the collaborative efforts of the Environmental Health and Safety Department, Facilities Management and Environmental Studies

Education and Mosquito Control Project

The mosquito control project, originating from a collaborative effort between the Environmental Health and Safety Department and the Department of Environmental Studies, has been the backbone of the biological control approach to reducing mosquito populations at the Biddeford Campus of UNE. This component of the IPM program involves creating habitat for mosquito-eating birds and bats and increasing the presence of mosquito-repellent plants. The two departments collaborate to oversee the education and work of student interns who manage the program each summer.

Record Keeping

Pest sighting and control records are kept in the Facilities Management workorder system to track the effectiveness of management activities if needed. Pesticide records shall be maintained on site and meet the requirements of the Maine Board of Pesticides Control.

Notification/Posting

A sign is placed in the immediate vicinity of any high-risk pesticide application at the time of use and remains in place for 48 hours.

Pesticide Storage and Disposal

Pesticides are stored in an appropriate, secure site that is not accessible to unauthorized personnel and disposed of in accordance with label directions and state regulations.

Pesticide Applicators

The university employs a licensed pesticide applicator who is trained in the principles and practices of IPM and licensed as a commercial pesticide applicator by the Maine Board of Pesticides Control. Applicators must follow state regulations and label precautions.

This program description is a modification of the sample IPM policy provided to Maine K-12 schools by the Maine School Integrated Pest Management Program, a partnership between the Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, the Maine Board of Pesticides Control, and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Pest Management Office.