

Making Schools Safer With IPM

Background

Pest control in schools helps protect children by reducing the risks of bites and stings from venomous insects and preventing contamination of food preparation areas and other critical sites from rodents, cockroaches, ants, birds and a variety of other pests. Integrated pest management (IPM) is an approach to pest control that has been shown to reduce to reduce pesticide use and improve the overall quality of pest control.

The Southwest Technical Resource Center for School IPM was founded in 2001 to help train schools in IPM. Texas has one of the most comprehensive state laws concerning pest control on school property. Texas has the second largest population of schoolchildren in the United States with over four million students statewide, 7380 schools and 1,039 school districts.

Objectives

- To help train facility managers and pesticide applicators servicing schools in their legal requirements and to promote more effective use of IPM in schools in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico.
- Encourage and promote more progressive forms of IPM implementation by publication of new research and demonstration projects.
- Develop resources for schools including videos, posters, manuals, website, and newsletters.

Benefits

- Between 2002-2004 Center staff visited approximately 100 school districts throughout Texas (2002, 65 visits; 2003, 16 visits; 2004, 19 visits) and trained 963 individuals in school IPM. Participants consistently give our training programs high scores for interest and relevance.
- The Center-sponsored IPM Pride™ Award program is the first program in the nation to recognize school districts doing an outstanding job with their IPM program. Awards include a plaque and cash. To date, \$4750 has been distributed to school maintenance programs.
- School Pest News is sent electronically to over 800 recipients every other month. Nearly ¼ of all Texas school districts in the state receive our e-newsletter.
- Schools implementing IPM statewide report dramatic reduction in pest-related complaints, and numbers of pesticide complaints have been significantly reduced.

Team Members

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For Additional Information

- Visit the Southwest Technical Resource Center for School IPM online
- See the ABC's of IPM video series
- EPA School IPM home
- Upcoming School IPM Coordinator Training Dates