

Sample School Greenhouse Integrated Pest Management Plan

(use this to develop your own IPM plan for a productive and educational school greenhouse)

Integrated Pest Management Statement: It is the policy of *school name* to use safe and healthy greenhouse management practices to protect ourselves and our environment from pests, contaminants, pathogens, and toxins. Our mission is *to provide an excellent learning opportunity and to produce healthy, nutritious food for our community*. With garden signs and instruction, all users and visitors are informed that chemical pest-control substances, including natural and organic products, home-made pest-control substances, and conventional pesticides are NOT ALLOWED per State of Maine regulations (see www.thinkfirstspraylast.org). We will use combinations of biological, ecological, horticultural, mechanical and physical Integrated Pest Management methods to protect our gardens from pests.

Our IPM Plan. We will:

Prevent Pests:

- Inspect incoming plants immediately to prevent unwanted entry of pest insects, diseases, weeds
- Prohibit 'pet' plants or plants brought from home or classrooms.
- Keep entire greenhouse weed-free by hand removal and/or installing weed barriers (landscape fabric or black plastic) to cover dirt floors.
- Keep doors closed.
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Use Good Horticultural Practices:

- Select hardy, pest-resistant varieties.
- Supply optimal amounts of water, nutrients, and use proper growing medium (pH, texture, consistency) to grow vigorous, healthy plants. Especially avoid overwatering.
- Keep growing temperature low (65 day, 60 night) when possible, to inhibit pest insects such as aphids, whiteflies and thrips.
- Remove and destroy all plant debris, including weeds, especially near doors and vents. Do not put infested material in dump areas near greenhouse.
- Close down greenhouse in mid-summer to allow extreme heat to kill weeds and insects.
- Sanitize benches, floors, pots, and tools.
- Dip cutting tools in disinfectant solution between cuts when cutting plants for propagation.
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Systematically Monitor for Pests:

- Scout crops twice weekly for signs of pest damage, plant disease, weeds and insects.
- Use available resources (books, internet, Cooperative Extension, etc) to identify insects, damage, diseases and weeds and to use recommended non-chemical methods for managing these problems and preventing recurrence.

- Keep a garden journal to record successes, observations, ideas and challenges.
- Keep detailed records of what, where, how many pests and beneficial organisms are found, diseases or damage that occurs, and what non-chemical pest management methods we used. Include sketch or map to show locations of crops/varieties/pest problems.
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Biological Control:

- If we plan to utilize purchased natural enemies to suppress common pests, we will make informed decisions about what, when, how many and how to utilize them effectively. We will purchase them from a reputable supplier and will release them to prevent pest outbreaks, not after a pest problem has developed.
- Remove diseased and infested plants, prune damaged stems, hand-pick insect pests, and pull out or hoe weeds.
- Plant a variety of flowering plants outside our greenhouse to attract and conserve natural enemies and other beneficial insects.
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