



## **INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)** **Self Check**

**Instructions:** This is a self check for how well you are practicing IPM. If you checked off 25 or more, excellent, 15-25 good, 5-15 some progress, less than 5 need to improve practices.

### **PEST AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT**

- Selected new species or varieties that are insect and/or disease resistant.
  - Rotated crops or moved plants, where practical, to reduce insect or disease problems
  - Kept garden free of debris to limit hiding places for insects and slugs.
  - Timed plants to avoid peak periods of attack by known insects/pests.
  - Encouraged the buildup of beneficial insects and mites
  - Properly identified a problem before control measures were activated
  - Selected the least toxic chemical approach to control a problem
  - Applied pesticides only to target areas.
  - Overhead irrigation is done early enough in the day to allow foliage to dry before nightfall. Watering is best done between the hours of 2AM to 8AM
  - Avoided infecting other plants by pruning out diseased parts and discarding heavily diseased plants. Shears are dipped in a disinfectant
  - Used mulches to prevent weed germination or kept nearby tall weeds or grass cut that harbor harmful viruses and insect populations.
  - Read and followed all safety precautions on pesticide labels before used
  - Monitor plantings regularly and determine what threshold numbers of certain insects are tolerable on key crops/plants.
  - Other, please describe.
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### **WATERING**

- Used mulch to keep soil moist and cool in the heat of summer
- Used soaker hoses or other types of drip irrigation so that all water gets to the roots where it belongs.

- Used a rain gauge (s) or a can with inch markings to determine amount of rainfall at any given time as well as output of water from an above-ground sprinkler
  - Watered vegetable garden and flower beds only when soil is within one inch of the surface felt dry and then applied one inch of water slowly for proper percolation
  - Installed a moisture sensor or rain gauge to an automatic irrigation setup.
  - Turned irrigation off regularly when signs of puddling developed.
  - Selected low-water use xeric plants for landscape
  - Added organic matter to soil to increase water holding capability and allow for better air exchange in “heavy” clay soils.
  - Consolidated plants in the landscape that require similar amounts of irrigation
  - Selected a turf grass like tall fescue that is tolerant of drought.
  - Operate irrigation system manually instead of it being totally automatic
  - Other, please describe
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## **LANDSCAPING**

- Selected new plants by matching their needs to the site’s environmental conditions
- Reduced the area devoted to lawns in the hoe landscape
- Created wildlife habitat through landscaping practices
- Installed permeable surfaces or ground cover plantings to allow water to more easily penetrate the soil
- Directed runoff across vegetated surfaces to reduce gullyng
- Installed raised planting beds where drainage is naturally poor.
- Redesigned the landscape (or a portion of) to employ the principles of xeriscaping or to be more low maintenance.
- Covered bare areas as soon as possible
- Used a light covering of mulch or slurry to protect soil from washing in newly seeded areas

- Stagnant water is not allowed to accumulate anywhere outside the home, as it's a rearing area for mosquitoes
  - Other, please describe
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**GARDEN WASTES/COMPOSTING**

- Used horticultural yard waste as mulch
  - Began or expanded composting, i.e., compost pile
  - Refrained from adding weeds, diseased plants or kitchen meat or cooked scrapes to the compost pile.
  - Other, please describe
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**SOIL AND FERTILITY**

- Had soil tested for pH and added limestone or acidifying agent to bring pH in proper balance, so existing elements will be made available or less toxic.
- Has soil tested for nutrients and applied fertilizers only in recommended amounts.
- Used properly timed annual or semi-annual applications of fertilizers.

**LAWNS**

- Added and thoroughly incorporated compost to the soil to improve structure.
- Used organic or controlled-release fertilizers
- Used slow-release fertilizers
- Used grass varieties with known tolerance to insects, disease and drought.
- Followed soil test recommendations to avoid over-fertilization
- Used Memorial Day, and Labor Day as guidelines for when to fertilize.
- Maintained a pH of 6.2 to 6.5 in lawn area.

- When mowing, removed no more than 1/3 the length/height of the grass blades.
- Kept mower blade sharp
- Aerated heavy or compacted soil
- Let the clippings lie in place to return valuable nutrients to the soil upon decomposition
- Other, please describe

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**HERBICIDES**

- Applied herbicides only when absolutely necessary
- Followed directions on label closely
- Calibrated spraying equipment according to directions
- Applied herbicides only to target weeds
- Other, please describe

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