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.

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

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.

Cornell Cooperative Extension in Suffolk County provides equal program and employment opportunities.
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

_________________________________________________

_________________________________________________

_________________________________________________

_________________________________________________

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 gullying

 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

___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________
___________________________________________________

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

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

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________

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

___________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________