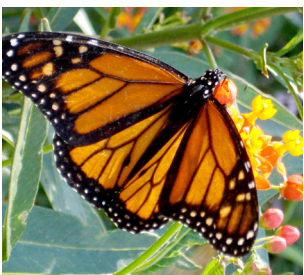
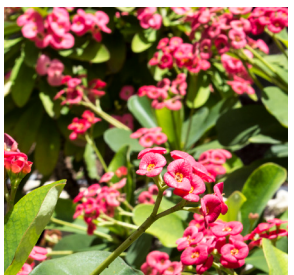


# UT Rio Grande Valley

## Integrated Pest Management Plan





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# Integrated Pest Management Plan

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The purpose of this Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan is to guide the use of environmentally sensitive pest management strategies and least-toxic control methods in *The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley*. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is defined as managing pests (plants, fungi, insects and/or animals) in a way that protects human health and the surrounding environment and that improves economic returns through the most effective, least-risk option. Core elements of IPM include:

- § Use of least-toxic chemical pesticides
- § Minimum use of chemicals
- § Use of chemicals and pesticides only in targeted locations and for targeted species
- § Routine inspection and monitoring
- § Proactive communication

## Goals

The goals of *The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley* IPM Plan are to minimize the impact of site management practices on the local environment, and to reduce the exposure of occupants, staff and maintenance personnel to potentially hazardous chemical, biological and particle contaminants.

The plan addresses environmental best practices for outdoor and indoor integrated pest management. Outdoor IPM should focus on keeping the property's pest populations under control and preventing pests from entering the building, with a focus on the building envelope and landscaping features. Indoor IPM should focus maintaining the building envelope to avoid intrusions and managing pest attractants. Any cleaning products used for IPM must meet the requirements of LEED® for Existing Buildings: Operations and Maintenance™ IEQ Credit 3.3: Green Cleaning, Purchase of Sustainable Cleaning Products and Materials.

## Strategy

IPM promotes the use of a range of preventative and non-chemical approaches to control pest populations and stave off infestation. If an infestation with unacceptable impacts occurs, thereby warranting additional treatment, IPM favors the use of least-toxic pesticides. The targeted application of a toxic pesticide is allowed only after all other reasonable non-toxic options are exhausted. This plan outlines preventative best practices and pest control strategies approved for use at the building. Provisions for the use of least-toxic pesticides, and toxic chemicals when necessary, are outlined should a pest infestation occur.

## Scope

This IPM Plan applies to the building interior and grounds of all *The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley* areas. The plan includes approved IPM strategies for managing and eradicating pests that are common to the area, and provides resources to facilitate learning about new and emerging IPM strategies. This plan is applicable at all times.

## Record Keeping

Monitoring the effectiveness of the IPM Plan over time requires diligent tracking of several items: pest populations and locations; management strategies employed; quantities and types of chemicals and products used; and the outcome of pest management activities. *The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley* shall maintain records that include the information below.

1. Notification to occupants: date, time method
2. Date, time and location of pesticide application
3. Target pest
4. Prevention and other non-chemical methods of control used
5. Type and quantity of pesticide used, including trade name and active ingredient
6. Summary of results
7. Name of the pesticide applicator
8. Application equipment used

## Performance Measurements, Quality Assurance and Control

The environmental performance of the IPM program shall be compiled from IPM records and analyzed on a semi-annual basis. An IPM report identifying the types of pest problems encountered at the buildings and the types and quantities of all pesticides used shall be generated by *The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley* for review. The following metrics shall be tracked throughout the year and documented in the report to evaluate the IPM Plan:

1. The severity and location of all major pest infestations
2. The amount of each pesticide product used by volume

Routine inspection and monitoring is performed by *UTRGV* personnel, including facilities and custodial staff. Particular attention will be paid to problem areas, referring to the IPM log for guidance. Building occupants are instructed to report any problems through an online work order system which will trigger response with a response time appropriate to the nature of the situation. The overall IPM program will be reviewed on an annual basis by the advisory committee.

## Responsible Parties

The *Grounds Superintendent, Daniel Gonzalez* is responsible for the monitoring consistent and correct implementation of the IPM Plan. *The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley* and Jack Davis (contracted vendor) are responsible for record keeping and performance measurement. The compiled records from all parties will be synthesized by *The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley* as part of an annual IPM review.

Title	Contact	Phone	Area of Responsibility
Safety Coordinator	Richard Castello	956-665-3690	Coordination
Pest Management Company	Jack Davis	956-607-3207	Ornamental/Herbicide Applicator
UTRGV Grounds	Daniel Gonzalez Jr.	956-665-3644	Ornamental/Pest Identification
Safeguard Pest Control	Juan Martinez	956-412-0793	Structural Pest Control

## Pest Control Contractors

When *The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley* enters into a new pest control contract or extends the terms of an existing contract that authorizes a contractor to apply pesticides in the building interior or grounds, the contract shall require that the contractor comply with this IPM Plan. The contract documents shall also require the contracted company to maintain records in accordance with the IPM Plan and submit this information to *The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley* when requested.

## Building User Notification

Notifying building users and occupants of pesticide applications is a critical component of the IPM Plan. Providing the appropriate information at the appropriate time enables individuals to take precautions as they see necessary to protect their personal health. A 72-hour advance notice to building occupants is required for the application of any pesticide other than a least-toxic pesticide or self-contained, non-rodent bait in a building or the surrounding grounds under normal conditions. Advance notice procedures shall take the following form:

1. Applications will be listed at ***Campus Facilities Operations and by contracted services provider***. The log will be refreshed on September 1 of each year.
2. Signs will be posted at the building main entry at least 3 business days before application of a least-toxic pesticide, and left in place for at least 3 business days after application. Signs must be standardized and easily recognizable.
  - a. Each sign must contain the following information:
    - i. The name and active ingredient of the pesticide product
    - ii. The target pest
    - iii. The application date
    - iv. Information indicating the toxicity category of the pesticide product
    - v. The name and phone number of an individual that is responsible for fielding questions regarding the application.
3. Email notification is an additional communication option when signs are determined to not be a reasonable notification option, such as a significant time or resource constraint.

## Emergencies

A pest outbreak is considered an emergency when it poses an immediate threat to public health or will cause significant economic or environmental damage if treatment is prolonged. Notification of emergency pesticide applications must be given within 24 hours of the application, in accordance with procedures outlined in the “Building User Notification” section of this plan.

## Approved Pesticides

Chemical pesticides are considered a last resort under the tenets of integrated pest management. Pesticides are to be used by *The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley* after non-chemical options have been exhausted. (TCEQ General Permit Pesticide Requirements No. TXG87000) and [EPA's Reduced Risk Pesticide List](#).

- § no known, likely, or probable carcinogens
- § no reproductive toxicants (CA Prop 65 list)
- § no ingredients listed by the EPA as known, probable, or suspect endocrine disrupters
- § active ingredients has soil half-life of thirty days or less
- § and is labeled as not toxic to fish, birds, bees, wildlife, or domestic animals

Nonrodent pesticides are also considered least toxic if they exceed the Tier 3 criteria but are used in self-contained baits and placed in inaccessible locations. Rodent baits are not considered least toxic under any circumstances.

Tier 3 products approved for use at *The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley* are:

Product Name	Active Ingredient
Advion Ant Bait indoor use	Indoxacarb 0.05%
Advion Roach Bait indoor use	Indoxacarb 0.06%
Gentrol	Hydropene 90.6%

Tier 2 products are of “moderate concern” and to be used under emergency conditions (as defined above) or in the event that both preventative methods and least-toxic pesticides prove to be ineffective at pest control.

Tier 2 products approved for use under the conditions outlined above at *The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley* are:

Product Name	Active Ingredient
Maxforce FC bait gel	Fipronil
Maxforce Roach killer bait (reservoir)	Fipronil
Quibtox	Cholecalciferol 0.075%

Tier 1 products are not intended for use except when there is a concern for public safety and in situations where the use of a Tier II product is inadequate or unsafe.

## Practices

Pest control chemicals in structural spaces are stored and applied by licensed vendor. UTRGV Grounds Supervisor is trained and licensed under the Texas Department of Agriculture for ornamental applications and is in charge of landscape management program for *UTRGV*. *All* credentialed ornamental and pest control providers and in-house personnel utilize best practices for chemical storage, preparation, handling, and disposal.

CHEMICAL APPLICATION PRACTICES	
<b>User Qualifications</b>	<p>§ All chemical application and advice on pest-management problems will be made by a licensed pest control company, particularly in the creation of customized integrated pest management problems, which may require detailed knowledge of the biology and ecology of a particular species.</p> <p>§ If pesticides are required, the Facilities Assistant will determine the best product and application in accordance with approval requirements.</p> <p>§ A specialist must prepare and use all chemicals.</p>
<b>Species Considerations</b>	<p>§ Time the treatment to coincide with the presence of the pest.</p> <p>§ Use a selective chemical that has the least effect on non-target species and treat only the area affected.</p>
<b>User Safety</b>	<p>§ Users must wear protective clothing appropriate to the pest chemical application used.</p> <p>§ Ensure that anyone handling toxic chemicals never works alone and that the work area is well-ventilated.</p> <p>§ Wear a respirator for outdoor spraying or dusting of organic phosphorus compounds</p> <p>§ Eating, drinking and smoking must be prohibited when using or handling chemicals</p> <p>§ Users must be familiar with the effects on the body of the chemicals they are likely to be using, and how the chemicals may enter the body.</p> <p>§ Users must be aware of the signs and symptoms of acute poisoning related to chemicals they are using. They must stop work if they are feeling ill and seek medical advice.</p>
<b>Equipment</b>	<p>§ Equipment must be frequently checked and properly maintained, both for health and safety reasons and to minimize spray drift.</p>
<b>Weather/Time Restrictions</b>	<p>§ Spraying must not be carried out in unsuitable weather. Anyone operating sprayers must have access to a wind-speed meter and only spray when the wind speed is negligible.</p> <p>§ Hours of work must be controlled so that building occupants are not exposed.</p>

## BASIC PLANT AND FUNGI CONTROL PRACTICES

<p><b>Maintenance</b></p>	<p>§ Keep the building grounds well-maintained at all times. Clear up plant debris, especially from fruit-bearing trees,          § Maintenance personnel shall use mulch and other landscaping best practices, warding off weeds and other pests.          § Keep vegetation trimmed at least 18 inches from the building.</p>
<p><b>Plantings</b></p>	<p>§ Maintain and plan landscape features to eliminate safe havens for pests.          § Avoid monocultures by mixing plant species in planters and gardens.</p>
<p><b>Manual Controls</b></p>	<p>§ Landscaping shall be hand weeded and chemical control shall be kept to a minimum. This measure prevents human and environmental exposure to hazardous chemicals.</p>
<p><b>Chemical Controls</b></p>	<p>When chemical use is necessary, replace hazardous substances with least-toxic chemicals as defined by the (TCEQ General Permit Pesticide Requirements No. TXG87000) and <a href="#">EPA's Reduced Risk Pesticide List</a></p>
<p><b>Inspection Schedule and Location</b></p>	<p>§ Responsible parties will inspect the site at regular intervals to monitor and apply pest controls operations.</p>

## BASIC ANIMAL PEST CONTROL PRACTICES

<p><b>Site/Building Cleanliness</b></p>	<p>§ Keep garbage containers clean, free of odors and covered at all times. Sanitation measures reduce habitat and food sources for pests.          § Keep areas around garbage containers free of spillage or garbage to prevent the collection of trash or debris on the ground around or underneath the containers.          § Keep grounds free of high weeds, trash, old equipment and debris, as these conditions create ideal harborage for rodents.</p>
<p><b>Structural Integrity</b></p>	<p>§ Maintain the building exterior in good repair with no holes or openings larger than ¼ inch including, but is not limited to, windows, doors, fans, vents, etc., to keep pests from entering the building.          § Address any deficiencies in the building exterior with corrective measures, i.e., cementing, screening, caulking, installing stripping on door bases, etc.          § Maintain door sweeps on all applicable doors to produce a good seal to the ground.</p>
<p><b>Inspection Schedule and Location</b></p>	<p>§ Visual inspections shall be performed on a monthly basis to identify problem areas.</p>



## SPECIFIC ANIMAL CONTROL STRATEGIES

<p><b>Ants</b></p>	<p>§ Always keep food items in sealed containers or store them in the refrigerator or freezer. Clean surfaces and storage areas to remove crumbs and stains. Keep sinks and worktops clean and dry.</p> <p>§ Prune branches close to the building or anything that might create a bridge for the ants to cross.</p> <p>§ In areas where ants are present, wipe the areas down with soapy water in order to prevent the formation of major scent trails. If there already is an established trail, wipe backwards from the food source to the entrance of the trail.</p> <p>§ Treat only areas that have active pest infestations. Temporary blockades can be made using sticky substances such as petroleum jelly or chili powder, cinnamon, and/or boric acid.</p> <p>§ Baits are best put in the path of an ant trail and then removed after the ant activity stops.</p> <p>§ Identify the ant species for most relevant measures.</p>
<p><b>Aphids</b></p>	<p>§ Prune out infested leaves.</p> <p>§ Knock off aphids by spraying with a strong stream of water.</p> <p>§ Wait for hot weather; most aphids are gone by mid-June.</p> <p>§ Release ladybugs on heavily infested plants.</p> <p>§ Spray with insecticidal oil or soap, (Safer's Soap).</p>
<p><b>Bed Bugs</b></p>	<p>§ Call professional pest management to inspect and treat for the presence of bed bugs indicated by the initial inspection.</p>
<p><b>Caterpillars</b></p>	<p>§ Obtain a correct identification of the caterpillar in order to prescribe the most appropriate form of control.</p> <p>§ Bacterial insecticides derived from natural ingredients are available to control caterpillars.</p>
<p><b>Cockroaches</b></p>	<p>§ There are five main species of cockroaches and effective control depends on identifying them correctly.</p> <p>§ All food handling areas should be cleaned frequently.</p> <p>§ Integrated pest management measures for controlling cockroaches include effective hygiene and exclusion practices, sticky traps lined with pheromones, boric acid, and insect growth regulators.</p>
<p><b>Dust Mites</b></p>	<p>§ Fabrics, bedding and carpets attract and generate dust and dust mites. To keep dust mites at bay, keep building well-ventilated and dry.</p>
<p><b>Scales</b></p>	<p>§ Provide plant with proper irrigation.</p> <p>§ Encourage natural enemies (ladybugs, lacewings).</p>

<p><b>Flies</b></p>	<p>§ Collection of waste and residues should be carried out at least twice a week.</p> <p>§ Keep refuse areas clean to avoid providing flies with breeding grounds</p> <p>§ Ensure bin lids fit tightly and the bins are cleaned regularly.</p> <p>§ Use fine mesh window and door screens as a barrier against entry by any flying insect.</p> <p>§ Ultra-violet (UV) fly killing equipment is very effective so long as it is situated correctly. In food preparation areas, UV equipment should only be used once all possible precautions have been taken to keep flying insects out. Position the UV equipment close to an entry point, at right angles to the nearest competing light source such as a window. In many catering establishments, poorly-situated UV equipment poses a greater food hygiene hazard than lacking pest repellants altogether. This is because when placed next to the food preparation area, they draw flies to the food which they are likely to contaminate before being killed.</p> <p>§ Natural chemical treatments include pyrethrum extracted from the <i>Chrysanthemum cineraria folium</i> plant that can be used in kitchens and restaurants.</p>
<p><b>Mosquitoes</b></p>	<p>§ Find and eliminate their habitat.</p> <p>§ Do allow flower pots, buckets, plastic sheeting or other open containers outside to collect water.</p> <p>§ Drain unused pools or fountains so that the water cannot become stagnant.</p> <p>§ Drain or fill depressions, mud flats, and other areas that might hold water.</p> <p>§ Repair leaking taps and air-conditioning units so that puddles cannot form and ensure that septic tanks and sewage systems are properly maintained and in good working order.</p> <p>§ Avoid over-irrigating lawns and gardens, and keep weeds and grass well-clipped.</p> <p>§ To prevent mosquitoes from coming indoors, fit fine-mesh screens to porches, doors and windows.</p>
<p><b>Fabric/Clothing Moths</b></p>	<p>§ Fabrics should be washed and then put in bags and placed in a freezer. When taken out to thaw, shake the fabrics vigorously to remove dead larvae.</p> <p>§ Clean the areas where fabrics have been stored with vinegar and water.</p> <p>§ Store fabrics in cedar chests or closets. Place cedar chips or blocks or lavender sachets in drawers.</p> <p>§ For acute moth problems, reusable traps can be baited with a controlled-release pheromone system to lure moths into the trap and disrupt their mating cycle.</p> <p>§ Avoid mothballs and insect foggers.</p>
<p><b>Pantry Moths</b></p>	<p>§ Vacuum affected areas.</p> <p>§ Scrub all surfaces with hot water and detergent, especially in corners and around the edges of removable shelves. White vinegar also works.</p> <p>§ Food items and containers should be thoroughly cleaned with a detergent and water solution and wiped down with a vinegar rinse before being put back. Use air-tight containers made of hard plastic, glass or metal and not plastic bags.</p> <p>§ Kill any moths with a fly swatter or moth traps.</p> <p>§ Peppermint gum, bay leaves, peppercorns and cloves may also help deter pantry moths.</p>

<p><b>Rodents</b></p>	<p>§ Rodent control should start with a survey to determine the source of the problem and the conditions that encourage the infestation.</p> <p>§ Remove food sources. § Eliminate places of refuge.</p> <p>§ Openings in building foundations and walls should be closed or screened with wire mesh that has holes not more than 1.25 cm (0.5 in) wide. Where pipes enter masonry, force heavy hardware cloth or steel wool into the opening, then fill it with concrete.</p> <p>§ Continuous surveillance is necessary and places where rodents have been gnawing to gain entry to a building should be sealed with metal flashing.</p> <p>§ Doors are particularly vulnerable to rodent entry so ensure that external doors and windows close tightly with no gaps at the bottom.</p> <p>§ Materials stored in the open, in sheds or in building should be stacked at least 30 cm (1 ft.) above the ground.</p> <p>§ Stringent waste disposal practices should be observed – secure all waste in closed containers and not just plastic bags.</p> <p>§ Wash bins regularly. Make sure composting bins are designed to prevent rodents from entering.</p> <p>§ Bait should be sticky to ensure that the mouse triggers the trap mechanism even if it only lightly touches the bait. Mice prefer peanut butter or chocolate. Bacon, oatmeal or apples can also be used as bait.</p> <p>§ An alternative to snap traps is a battery-operated trap that generates a high-voltage once the rat or mouse is inside.</p>
<p><b>Slugs and Snails</b></p>	<p>§ There are various non-chemical solutions to eliminated slugs and snails, including putting salt or sharp shingle around vulnerable plants, drowning them in beer or simply throwing them over a fence. Elemental copper bands also repel snails and slugs. Remove daytime hiding places, (weeds, debris, etc.)</p>
<p><b>Wasps and Hornets</b></p>	<p>§ A simple trap can be made by putting beer or a solution of jam or honey and water in an open jar around the grounds. If this does not work, there are branded traps available containing specially formulated attractant baits.</p>

## Training

Texas Department of Agriculture requires that, any person applying pesticides must be trained prior to the use of each pesticide, regardless of toxicity, unless they possess a current Qualified Applicators Certificate or Qualified Applicators License. These individuals are required to have general pesticide safety training annually.

In Texas, any business that provides pesticide management services for hire must have a pest control business license. *The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley* hires **Jack Davis** to provide pest control services, and the company does hold a valid pest control business branch (PCB) license, issued by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

The *Grounds Superintendent, Daniel Gonzalez Jr.* is the main point of contact for *The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley* regarding pest management and ensures staff are familiar with the IPM Plan.



## Definitions

An **emergency** pest outbreak is one that poses an immediate threat to public health or will cause significant economic or environmental damage.

A **least-toxic pesticide** is any pesticide product for which all active ingredients and known inert ingredients meet the least toxic (TCEQ General Permit Pesticide Requirements No. TXG87000) and [EPA's Reduced Risk Pesticide List](#). Least toxic also applies to any pesticide product, other than rodent bait, that is applied in a self-contained, enclosed bait station placed in an inaccessible location or applied in a gel that is neither visible nor accessible.

A **pesticide** is any substance, or mixture of substances, used for defoliating plants, regulating plant growth, or for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest, which may be detrimental to vegetation, humans, or animals.

A **tiered pesticide** refers to The (TCEQ General Permit Pesticide Requirements No. TXG87000) and [EPA's Reduced Risk Pesticide List](#) pesticide classification system based on hazard potential. Products are evaluated against comprehensive list of hazard criteria including carcinogenicity, reproductive toxicity, endocrine disruption, acute toxicity, hazard to birds/fish/bees/wildlife, persistence, and soil mobility, and are placed within a tier structure based on the evaluation results.

Tier 1: Highest concern. At least one criterion placed in the highest hazard category.

Tier 2: Moderate concern. At least one criterion place in the middle hazard category.

Tier 3: Lowest concern. No criterion flagged for Tier 1 or Tier 2.

Tier 4: Insufficient information available to assign to above tiers

A **first generation anticoagulant rodenticide** generally requires higher concentrations to be effective and requires multiple feedings over several days, but has a shorter duration time in the body. Examples: diphacinone, chlorophacinone

A **second generation anticoagulant rodenticide** is far more toxic than first generation, hence it is generally applied in lower concentrations and is lethal after a single ingestion, but it remains in the body far longer. Examples: bromadiolone, brodifacoum, difethialone

## Resources

*The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley* Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM) develops and promotes the use of integrated, ecologically sound pest management programs to serve agriculture, urban and community, and natural resources audiences.

Texas Department of Agriculture: Website provides public information and multiple resources in support of agriculture and landscape industry in the state of Texas.

<http://www.texasagriculture.gov/w>





## Contact

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