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Effective and environmentally sound land stewardship is a fundamental component of the university’s landscape management philosophy. Controlling invasive pests while promoting healthy growth of desirable species helps to fulfill this responsibility by:

- Reducing health dangers caused by insect or disease infestations
- Maintaining indigenous and cultivated/introduced landscape vegetation
- Supporting stakeholder activities, i.e. sports, recreational pastime, aesthetic enjoyment

The Facilities Grounds Department uses an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program to promote healthy vegetation and guide pest control activities on lands owned and leased by the MacEwan University.

The MacEwan University program follows the “traditional” IPM approach (cultural/biological, chemical,) to improve plant health and to prevent and manage pest infestations.

When pests are detected the Grounds Supervisor will determine the most effective and environmentally sound method to deal with the issue. These methods include;

**1. Cultural methods**Suppress pest problems by minimizing the conditions they need to live (water, shelter, food). Planting plants that are adapted to our growing conditions, planting them in the right place, giving proper attention to their water and nutritional needs and the like. Native plants resist diseases, outgrow weeds and are less likely to succumb to insects.

**2. Biological methods**Use predators, parasites and diseases of pests in a targeted way to suppress pest populations. Such as the use of Ladybugs to control Aphids and whitefly in roses and shrub areas.

**3. Chemical methods**

Conventional pesticides currently refers to synthetically produced compounds that act as direct toxins (nerve poisons, stomach poisons, etc.) MacEwan Grounds uses only environmentally friendly biodegradable pesticide treatments as required in minimal affective amounts.