

California State University, Sacramento Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan

Introduction

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a scientifically based, worldwide standard for managing pests. Pests include plants or animals that are deemed detrimental to the campus, a nuisance to building occupants, or unwanted on the building grounds for other reasons. The goal of CSU Sacramento's IPM plan is the development and use of safe, sustainable, and effective methods to manage pest problems in the least harmful and least toxic way possible.

Preventive Action

The campus selects plant species that are best suited for the campus, placing an emphasis on native plants, which are more pest and disease resistant. If a native plant isn't available or a good option for the campus, the Grounds Department selects plants from other areas that grow in Mediterranean climates similar to ours. The vast variety of native and non-native plants on campus is a first line of defense in preventing widespread pest problems. The Grounds Department also uses a thick layer of mulch from branches that have been chipped on campus. This helps prevent undesirable plants from growing in campus planter beds, which greatly reduces herbicide use.

Intervention

If a pest problem is discovered, pest activity is monitored regularly to determine if action is required. If a pest problem does not warrant immediate action, alternative pest control methods will be used. If the alternative method fails, least toxic pesticides will be used prior to resorting to the use of non-least toxic pesticides. For example, when the Grounds Department is alerted of a beehive on campus, they make every attempt to safely relocate the hive.

Evaluation

Evaluation is one of the most important aspects of our IPM plan. This is done based on the records of the use of alternative pest control methods, least toxic pesticides, or non-least toxic pesticides and the effects the action had on the campus. This is necessary to determine the effectiveness for future pest problems. The Grounds Department has worked with UC IPM to conduct glyphosate-alternative trials on the campus grounds.