**Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan:**
**The major steps of an IPM plan are as follows[[1]](#footnote-1):**
1. Pest identification
2. Monitoring the population
3. Developing a goal
4. Putting IPM to work
5. Evaluating the results

**Pest Identification:**All grounds personnel at USFSP must attend at minimum a Florida Best Management Practices class offered by the University of Florida at one of the local county extension offices. In addition, all personnel must obtain a Limited Lawn and Ornamental license from FDACS before applying any chemical pesticides. Opportunities to attend other UF/IFAS classes will be provided to further our collective ability to properly identify plant illnesses, pest insects, and pest predators as well as to collect CEUs toward LLO license renewal.

**Monitoring the population:**All grounds personnel are responsible for noting and attempting to identify any plant health conditions noticed while on shift. Once a problem has been identified, all personnel are responsible for reporting any changes to that condition. If it appears the problem is correcting itself without intervention, no further action will be taken. If the problem persists or worsens, the action taken will be the least toxic remedy that is efficacious.

**Developing a goal:**The objectives of using an IPM plan are to minimize risk to human health, reduce cost, and minimize impact on the environment for a more sustainable campus while not sacrificing the aesthetics of our green spaces on the USFSP campus. We understand eradication of pests is generally not feasible or sustainable. Certain showcase areas of campus such as Harborwalk will have a lower action threshold, meaning that less plant damage will be considered tolerable, than in open park and field areas such as the as-yet undeveloped Poynter field.

**Putting IPM to work and Evaluating the results:**
At present, USFSP has a contracted pesticide service that applies most fertilizers and pesticides on an as-needed basis, but we also have three people with LLO licenses on staff. In the future it is anticipated most of these services will be handled by USFSP grounds staff. Signs are posted at the site of chemical pesticide use at the time of application. Chemicals are used as a last resort and the least-toxic chemical at the lowest dose that may be effective will be tried first. Harsher chemicals or higher dosages will only be employed if the pest appears to have developed resistance to the least toxic method.

1. Fishel, Frederick M. “Applying Pesticides Correctly”, 7th Edition. University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, 2010. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)