

Elementary IPM: Integrated Pest Management

Spring or anytime insects are around

Activity: Look at pictures and show and tell items that describe IPM in a kid-friendly manner

Goal: To teach children about least toxic pest control methods and the importance of garden education

Supplies: Handouts about IPM, cartoon, show and tell box with items used for non-toxic pest controls (examples: sticky traps, pheromone traps, boric acid or other non or low toxicity chemicals), books or pictures of beneficial insects—we have these in our shed but there are many choices through the UCD website or at the UCD bookstore.

Action Plan

Tell the IPM story

- (1) ('kill it' cartoon) Ask kids what they think when they see a bug in their garden. Do they get scared, or worried and think they have to kill it right away?
- (2) (danger/poison picture) If they wanted to get rid of the bug, are poisonous chemicals the best solution?
- (3) The problem with many chemicals is that they kill bugs that can help our garden as well as the bugs that bother our gardens. Chemicals also spread in the environment.
- (4) (UC-IPM page) A better solution is to use **IPM—Integrated Pest Management**. IPM uses many different methods to control garden pests.
- (5) ('chill it' cartoon) This allows you to relax and "chill it" as you learn which bugs are the pests and which ones are good for your garden. Not all bugs are bad.

How to practice IPM

(show and tell items: glove—pick off pests; hose—spray off; samples of nontoxic pest traps)

- (1) Learn how to keep your plants healthy—healthy plants resist pests. Don't over water or overfertilize, and plant the right plant in the right place.**
- (2) Learn to identify pests and beneficial insects.**
- (3) Learn to tolerate some plant damage, and know when you have a pest problem that you should treat.**
- (4) Use biological controls like predatory ladybugs, physical controls like spraying water, traps or barriers.**
- (5) If you must use chemicals, use the least toxic solution and apply in small areas.**