

Community IPM: Reducing risks across New York State

The New York State Community Integrated Pest Management (NYS CIPM) Program reduces risks posed by pests and pest control methods in urban, suburban and rural communities



The latest in IPM: Hot water machines kill weeds without herbicide.



Research at Bethpage State Park has shown that IPM putting greens use 30-66% fewer pesticide applications, and have up to 96% less environmental impact, than conventionally managed greens.



SUMMARY

The New York State Community Integrated Pest Management (NYS CIPM) Program at Cornell University is the only one of its kind in the country and addresses pest problems where people live, learn, work, and play—using methods that pose minimal risk to human health and the environment. We help the state's 19 million residents find and use new alternative ways to manage the pests that damage our landscapes, contaminate our food and living spaces, and pose risks to human health. Funds for the NYS CIPM Program, during nine of the last ten years, have been provided by New York State through an appropriation to the Department of Environmental Conservation.

THE ISSUE

New Yorkers demand a safe environment, and many communities have mandated restrictions on pesticide use. Yet both pests and the methods used to control them may pose risks. For example, parents want children to be safe from wasps, but the public doesn't want pesticides used in schools. In parks, golf courses, homes, hospitals, office buildings—wherever we work or learn, live or play—we face similar issues. Professional pest managers are willing to use lower-risk alternatives—if those IPM methods are proven effective. The research to discover and develop these techniques and the extension to train managers are essential for change to occur. At the same time, teaching our citizens about environmentally friendly, scientifically-sound options for preventing and managing pests helps them make informed decisions that can have a profound and cumulative effect on New York's environmental and economic well-being.

IMPACTS—SCHOOL IPM

- New York is a STAR! In 2008 we worked closely with several schools to improve and acknowledge their IPM Practices. Many schools seek recognition through the IPM Institute of North America's IPM STAR Certification program. Thanks in part to our efforts, New York now has the most IPM STAR certified schools of any state in the U.S. Most recently, Seaford (Nassau County) and Ithaca (Tompkins County) school districts joined the ranks.

- We created the *IPM Workbook for NYS schools* and distributed it to all 702 public school districts in New York, and trained 3,000 employees from over 250 districts. We've helped schools deal with mice, ants, lice, bees and wasps, weeds and more—and taught them how to handle the problem themselves next time. In 2008 we focused on helping small rural districts and initiating contacts with private schools.

- We're helping school kids learn about IPM, and how it's practiced in their schools. Check out our lesson plans and activities: *Fun with IPM* and *The Science of Life: Exploration through Agriculture* at www.nysipm.cornell.edu/teaching_ipm

- Nationally, we participated in the development of the national School IPM Pest Management Strategic Plan which will serve as the framework for practicing IPM in all schools by 2015.

IMPACTS—BEYOND SCHOOLS...

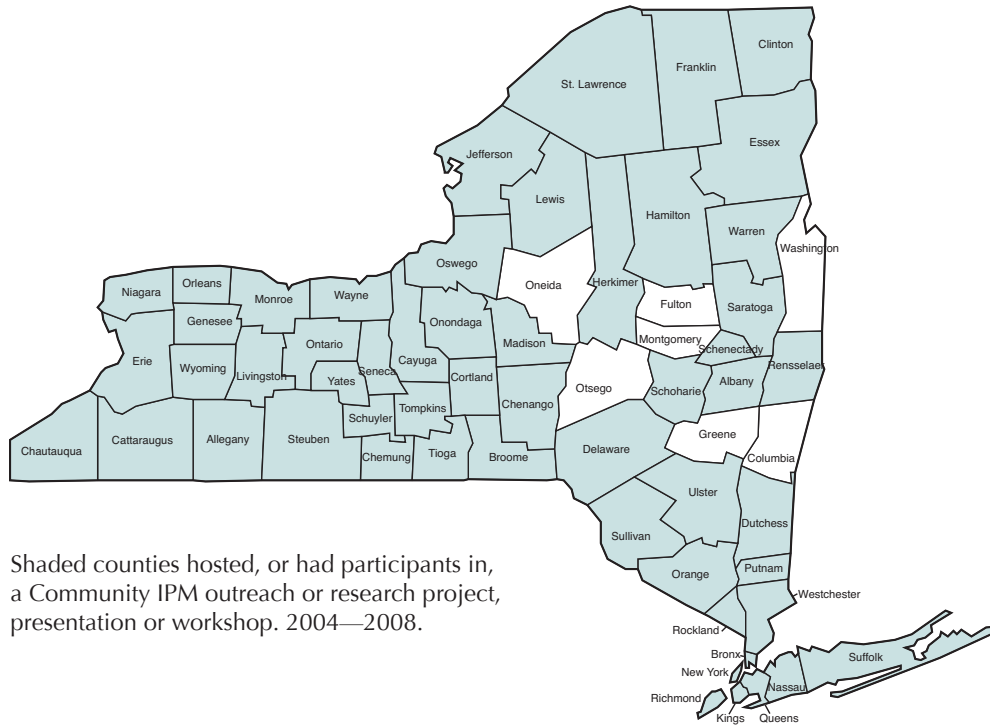
- We provide over 20 IPM training opportunities to professionals in New York's turfgrass industry each year. Our golf course research shows that IPM putting greens can be maintained with 30-66% fewer pesticide applications—and up to 96% less environmental impact—than on conventionally managed greens. Turf managers trust IPM's science-based techniques, and we have a strong and positive influence on the management of New York's 3.5 million acres of turf.

- Bed bugs are a newly resurged and significant pest problem in hotels, apartments and houses—at all economic levels. We developed many new resources for travelers, college students, operators of shelters and group living facilities and anyone dealing with bed bug issues. Have you ever wondered whether your hotel room might have bed bugs? Our quick reference guide shows you how to check so you can have a peaceful night's sleep! www.nysipm.cornell.edu/whats_bugging_you/bed_bugs

- The *Interactive Plant Manager* is a comprehensive online tool to diagnose pests of woody ornamental plants. Professional landscapers and arborists, as well as homeowners are able to identify pests of trees and shrubs—searching by host plant, damage symptoms or the pest itself—aided by detailed photographs and descriptions. Proper identification, coupled with the good management options provided, enable true IPM decision-making. www.nysipm.cornell.edu/aes_ornamental.asp

- We developed record keeping software that enables turfgrass managers to keep their pest management records more easily and more accurately. *TracLawn*, *TracGolf*, *TracGrounds* and *TracSod* are specialized to various segments of New York's five billion dollar turfgrass industry.

- Weed suppressive ground covers are being highlighted around the state in several demonstration areas and featured on colorful brochures that are displayed by garden centers selling the plants. A great herbicide alternative! www.nysipm.cornell.edu/nursery_ghouse/weed_supp_grcovers.asp



Shaded counties hosted, or had participants in, a Community IPM outreach or research project, presentation or workshop. 2004—2008.

FUTURE

With continued funding, the NYS CIPM Program has the potential to steeply reduce risks of pests and pesticides in all 702 public school districts in New York, seven million households, thousands of acres of rights-of-way, landscapes, street trees, 860 golf courses, as well as a multitude of parks, day care centers, office buildings, and correctional and health care facilities. The challenges and opportunities for protecting New York's schools, homes, greenspaces and waterways are boundless.

Funding Sources: The Community IPM effort has been primarily funded by New York State through an appropriation to the Department of Environmental Conservation (\$376,000) and is supplemented by leveraged grant funds and federal Land Grant Extension dollars.

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