



**Thurston County Environmental Health**  
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## Integrated Pest Management Plan Guidance

1. Describe the project and why the IPM Plan is required (project is a subdivision of 10 lots or greater, project contains open space area(s) totaling greater than 5 acres, or the project is located in a group A wellhead protection area). Describe the site where the project is located; include soil type (gravelly, clayey, expected soil drainage, topography, etc). Describe the project's landscape design (home sites, natural areas, community spaces, storm water facilities).
2. Provide a local environmental perspective to the IPM Plan:
  - Explain to the homeowners and development manager why this IPM Plan is important to protect nearby natural resources.
  - Describe nearby sensitive areas such as groundwater, streams, and lakes.
  - Describe landscaping and pest control activities that homeowner's do that could impact the quality of nearby natural resource areas.
3. Describe IPM principles for landscape management that can help reduce impacts to surface or groundwater.
  - **Prevention:** Describe activities the developer homeowner and landscape professional will perform to prevent pest and disease problems. Include proper site construction and soil preparation by developer prior to landscaping, importance of landscape design and proper choice of plants, proper planting techniques, and benefits of the use of mulch and weed barriers in landscape beds). List local resources where homeowners can find assistance in learning how to prevent or control pest problems (examples include; IPM for Homeowners [http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehipm/ipm\\_homeownr.html](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehipm/ipm_homeownr.html) or the Common Sense Gardening Guides <http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehcsg/guides.html> - other sources can be suggested as well).
  - **Identify Pest Problems:** Describe the importance of identifying the problem before choosing a control action. List resources where the homeowner can find assistance in identifying problems (WSU/Thurston County Cooperative Extension 360-867-2651, local pest control companies).
  - **Inspection:** Describe the importance of regular landscape inspections for pest and disease symptoms.
  - **Threshold for Control:** Describe the extent of the pest or vegetation problem when action must be taken to prevent unacceptable damage.
  - **Appropriate Control Actions:** Describe effective least toxic controls available to homeowners (non-chemical and chemical – to find low hazard pesticides consider using the Grow Smart Grow Safe pesticide purchasing guide).
  - **Evaluate Results:** Describe evaluation process to determine whether the control was effective to help future problems.
  - **Recommend Best Management Practices:**
    - **Weed Control:** Describe and emphasize non-chemical weed control techniques that are available to the homeowner.

- Disease Control: Describe best management practices that prevent plant and turf diseases. Only the least toxic fungicides should be applied to those plants or turf areas where the problems exist.
- Insect Control: Describe best management practices that prevent insect problems and recommend treatment thresholds. Only least toxic insecticides should be applied to those plants or turf areas where the problem exists.
- Fertilizer Use: Describe the value of soil testing and the proper use of compost and slow-release fertilizer applied at the right time and concentration.

If your project is in the city of Olympia, include; *"Only slow release fertilizers shall be applied for the life of the development at a maximum amount of 4 lbs of nitrate as nitrogen annually and no more than 1 lb. per application for every 1,000 square feet of turf grass. Only fertilizer formulas with a minimum of 50% water insoluble form of nitrogen are permitted for use. Approved water insoluble forms of nitrogen include sulfur and/or polymer coated fertilizers, Isobutylidene Diurea (IBDU), Methylene Urea and Ureaform, and organic fertilizers registered with Washington Department of Agriculture."* (City of Olympia Critical Areas Ordinance Chapter 18.32.225).

- Irrigation: Describe the importance of water conservation and using the appropriate amount of water to promote a healthy landscape.

Consider recommending that lawn irrigation systems should be designed and managed to supply no more than a total of 1 inch of water per week (including rain). And, an evaluation of the soil type should determine the frequency the lawn should be irrigated (two to three times a week for sandy soil or once a week for soil with more clay).

4. Describe any community owned areas within the project; roadsides, stormwater facilities, and other community amenities. Include how each of these areas will be landscaped and how they will be maintained to ensure their functionality and keep pest and vegetation problems to tolerable levels.
5. Describe proper storage, disposal and handling practices for pesticides and other landscape chemicals, including how to manage unwanted chemicals. Consider recommending the use of HazoHouse (Thurston County's household hazardous waste facility) for free disposal of unused chemicals for Thurston County residents located at 2420 Hogum Bay Road NE in Lacey.

For further information contact Patrick Soderberg at (360) 867-2586.