

Don't Squish That Bug! Organic Pest Management for Home Gardens  
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IPM or OPM, what is it?

Integrated Pest Management or Organic Pest Management  
 An alternative to pesticides or herbicides for controlling pests and diseases.  
 Considers pest and disease problems with a holistic, ecological point of view.

Basic steps

- Observe and positively identify pest or disease.
- Learn all about habits and habitats, lifecycles and where organism fits into the bigger scheme of things.
- Decide on a course of action.
- Set tolerance levels. How far will you go? What is your definition of pest or weed?
- Take action, monitor and evaluate. Adjust.

Use a treatment only when needed and treat only the critical area  
 Change conditions to discourage pest or increase natural enemies.

Tolerable Damage?

Setting your levels, is it a nuisance problem?

Observe and identify

Pest or Guest?

<u>See Pest</u>	OR	<u>See Damage</u>
Stages of life and linking larva, adult, pupa		no creatures present during day
collect plants, frass and other evidence		look at night, dawn, cool or hot weather
notice any other insect activity		look at bite marks
		look for frass or exoskeleton

After positive identification, learn about lifecycle, habitats, habits and role in the ecosystem.

Is this a problem?

Can you remedy the situation with proper cultural practices?

Build healthy soil	Use the least toxic approach . . .
Work with nature	Water wisely
Right plant, right place	Learn as you grow
Encourage biodiversity	

If it is a problem, apply tactics.

Treatment strategies typically begin with indirect controls and move toward direct controls if pest populations are not responding.

### Indirect Suppression

Design/redesign

Habitat modification

Human behavior changes/Education

### Direct Suppression

Physical/mechanical controls

Biological controls

IPM includes least toxic chemical controls

Basic lifecycle of insects that pupate

Adult-egg-larva-pupa-adult

Basic lifecycle of insects that do not pupate

Adult-egg-nymph-adult

## **Resources**

Garden Hotline (206) 633-0224, [gardenhotline.org](http://gardenhotline.org)

## **Books**

*Maritime Northwest Garden Guide, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.*, Lisa Taylor, 2014

*Your Farm in the City*, Lisa Taylor, 2011

*Garden Insects of North America*, Whitney Cranshaw, 2004

*Gardener's Guide to Common Sense Pest Control*, Olkowski and Olkowski, 2013

*Insects of the Pacific Northwest*, Peter Haggard and Judy Haggard, 2006

*Landscape Plant Problems*, WSU Cooperative Extension, Byther, Foss, Antonelli, Maleike and Bobbit, 1996

*Living With Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest*, Russell Link, 2004

*Natural Enemies Handbook and Gallery*, <https://ipm.ucanr.edu/natural-enemies>

*Pacific Northwest Insects*, Merrill A. Peterson, 2018

*Pest of Landscape Trees and Shrubs, An Integrated Pest Management Guide*, Publication 3359, Steve Dreistadt, Jack Kelly Clark, Mary Louise Flint, 1994

*Pest of the Garden and Small Farm, A Grower's Guide to Using Less Pesticide*, Publication 3332, Mary Louise Flint, 1990

*Plants and Animals of the Pacific Northwest*, Eugene N. Kozloff, 1980

*Rodale's Color Handbook of Garden Insects*, Anna Carr, 1979

*Wild Plants of Greater Seattle*, Arthur Lee Jacobson, 2008

*Weeds of the West*, Tom D. Whitson, 2006