

Turfgrass Advocacy

2010



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Background

The New York State Turfgrass Association believes New York should codify a state definition of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). The full expression “Integrated Pest Management” (IPM) first appeared in press 30 years ago (Kogan 1998). The scientific basis evolved over a period of about 10 years primarily among researchers at the University of California, Berkeley and Riverside campuses. The concept was explicitly defined in 1965 at a symposium sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, held in Rome, Italy (FAO 1966b).

The concept of decision making implicitly permeates most definitions of IPM. Generally it includes a selection of pest control tactics, singly or harmoniously coordinated into a management strategy based on cost/benefit analyses that take into account the interests of and impacts on producers, society and the environment.

NYSTA Perspective

The United State Environmental Protection Agency describes IPM as “an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common-sense practices. IPM programs use current, comprehensive information on the life cycles of pests and their interaction with the environment. This information, in combination with available pest control methods is used to manage pest damage by the most economical means, and with the least possible hazard to people, property and the environment.

The IPM approach can be applied to both agricultural and non-agricultural settings, such as the home, garden and workplace. IPM takes advantage of all appropriate pest management options including, but not limited to, the judicious use of pesticides.” (EPA web site) www.epa.gov/opp00001/factsheets/ipm.htm

In New York, several bills have been introduced with varying descriptions of IPM A1698 | S4949/A4147 | S1737-A/A1974-A | S418-B/ A1617-A. These bills use IPM definitions to effectively ban the use of certain classes of pesticides and define IPM as a method that essentially eliminates the use of all pesticides.

NYSTA believes New York would be best served by adopting the definition of IPM recognized by –

- Food Quality Protection Act of 1996,
- The National Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Network,
- Empire State Council of Agricultural Organizations and
- Federal Code 136r-1. Integrated Pest Management.

“Integrated Pest Management is a sustainable approach to managing pests by combining biological, cultural, physical and chemical tools in a way that minimizes economic, health and environmental risks.”

Recommendation

• Ask the legislature to adopt the definition of IPM as - *“Integrated Pest Management is a sustainable approach to managing pests by combining biological, cultural, physical and chemical tools in a way that minimizes economic, health and environmental risks.”*

• Oppose A1698 | S4949/A4147 | S1737-A/A1974-A | S418-B/ A1617-A and other legislation that bans certain classes of pesticides within their definitions of IPM.

• Fund both the Agricultural IPM program (\$800,000) and Community IPM Program

• Senate members sign onto Senator Thompson’s letter to “seek restoration of \$800,000 through the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and, in the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, an IPM program for communities as robustly funded as in Agriculture.”