

Relationships With Introduced Species & Integrated Pest Management

As we consider how to interact with plants and animals in our yard, it's important to remember that all of our actions have an impact on the living world. Indigenous science reminds us that all animals and plants, native or not, are part of our shared world and have much to teach us. Integrated Pest Management offers a western framework that helps us watch, understand, and decide if treatment is needed to support ecological health. The following process blends these two perspectives together to help us care for the wildlife around us.



Slow Down and Learn

Check multiple sources to confirm which plant or animal you're concerned about. Indigenous science asks us to consider what role do they play in the ecosystem, and what might be lost if they're removed?



Observe and Connect

When we pause, nature often reveals its own rhythm. Watch how life shifts through seasons, allowing plants and animals to find their own balance.



Set Your Action Threshold

Ask yourself: Is action needed? How will I know? Is one plant or animal upsetting the balance of the yard, creating a safety concern, or recognized locally as a species that needs attention?



Take The Gentlest Step First

1) Improve ecosystem health (leave the leaves, add compost, plant natives in dense groups); 2) Manual removal (hand pull plants, spray insects off plants with water, remove diseased plant parts); 3) [Use Grow Smart Grow Safe's "green" zone or OMRI rated products](#); 4) Use fencing or netting to keep species out of areas



Continue to Observe and Adjust

Your actions can take months or years to show full results. Keep watching how your yard responds to your efforts.



Take More Aggressive Steps as a Last Resort

Only take these steps if all else hasn't worked and you still need to act: 1) introduce biological controls, such as predacious insects; 2) Using "yellow" or "red" zone products following all product application standards.

Learn More



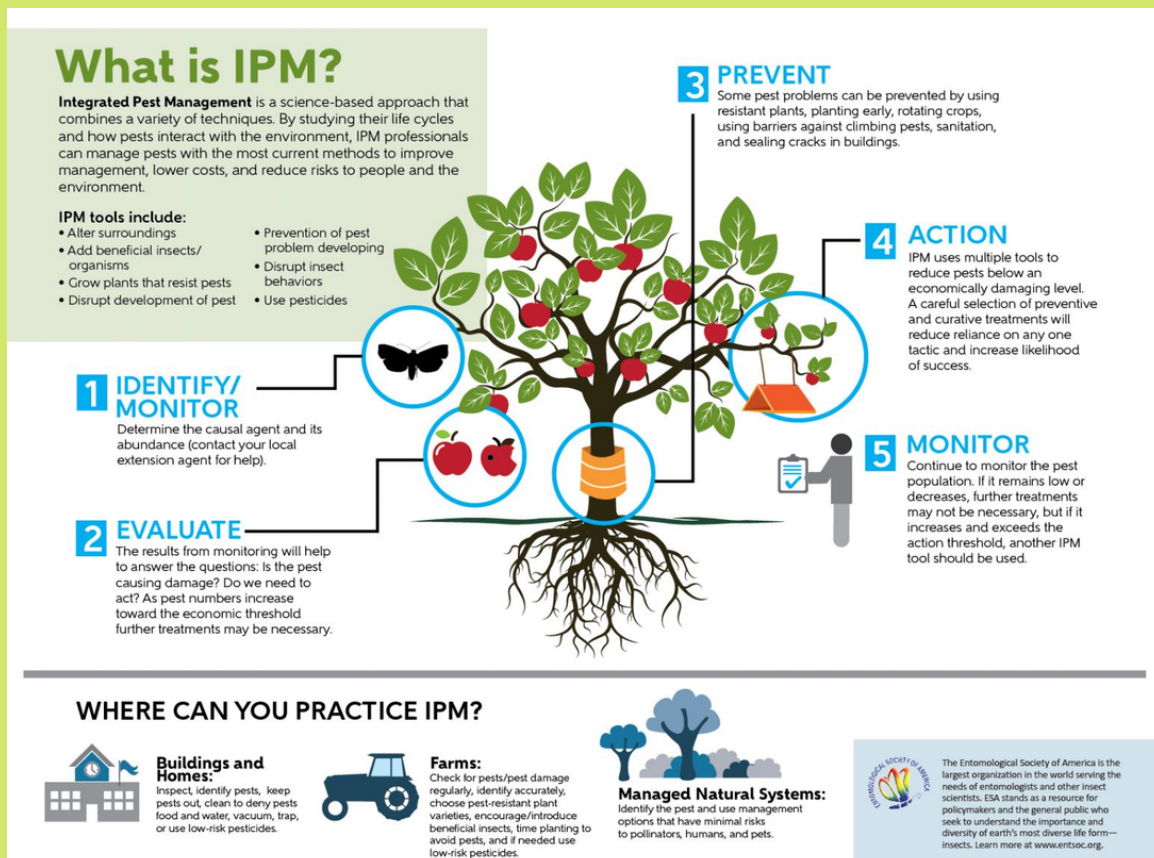
Indigenous Traditional Ecological & Cultural Knowledge (ITECK)

[Rooted In Respect: Rethinking our Relationships with Non-Native Plants](#)

[Indigenous Peoples' relational frameworks to invasive species management](#)

["Finding Connection to Place" Podcast with Judy Bluehorse Skelton](#)

Integrated Pest Management



[Image Credit](#): North Central IPM Center



Backyard Habitat Resource Library

Scan the QR Code below with your phone, click on it, or visit our [Resource Library under the "Pesticide Reduction" topic](#) to find more tips and resources for working with introduced species.