

## INTEGRATED VEGETATION AND PEST MANAGEMENT

In accordance with Policy 6520: HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, Bainbridge Island School District follows an Integrated Pest Management program for managing vegetation and pests. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an ecological approach to suppressing pest populations (i.e. weeds, insects, diseases, etc.) in which alternative pest controls are considered, and where practical, implemented, before chemical controls are used, so that pests are kept at acceptable levels in effective, economical, and environmentally safe ways.

Bainbridge Island School District will manage vegetation and pests in a manner that: utilizes an ecological approach; minimizes the use of pesticides; minimizes risk to human health and the environment *by using no high-hazard pesticides*; and considers community values in establishing standards of maintenance for Bainbridge Island School District properties.

### Definitions

IPM Program: The components of an IPM program are Threshold and Action Levels:

- A. Threshold level refers to the point in growth of a vegetation or pest population where it will cause an unacceptable impact on: public safety, recreation, or health; natural and/or managed ecosystems; aesthetic values; economic damage to desirable plants; the integrity, function, or service life of facilities.
- B. Action level is the level of development of a vegetation or pest population at a specific site at which action must be taken to prevent the population from reaching the threshold level.

High Hazard Pesticide: *High-hazard pesticides are pesticides linked to cancer, nervous system harm, reproductive damage, or endocrine disruption. To ensure that no high-hazard pesticides are used, pesticides will meet the following criteria:*

- A. *Pesticide is not classified as highly acutely toxic (Hazard Category I or II) by the Environmental Protection Agency (signal word for Hazard Category I products = DANGER; signal word for Category II products = WARNING);*
- B. *Pesticide is not a restricted use pesticide (use of the product is not restricted to certified pesticide applicators);*
- C. *Known ingredients in product have been evaluated by the U.S. EPA and found to include no possible, probable, known or likely carcinogens;*
- D. *Known ingredients in product include no reproductive toxicants (CA Prop 65 list);*
- E. *Known ingredients in product not listed by Illinois EPA as known, probable or suspected endocrine disrupters;*

- F. *Known ingredients in product include no nervous system toxicants (neurotoxic by mode of action-defined as pesticides in the organophosphate, carbamate, pyrethrin, and pyrethroid classes of chemical);*
- G. *Known ingredients have soil half-life less than 100 days;*
- H. *Known ingredients do not have high or very high mobility in soil;*
- I. *Product is not labeled as toxic to fish, birds, wildlife or domestic animals.*

Selection of Optimal Strategies: The criteria, not necessarily in order of importance, for selecting treatment tactics and developing pest management strategies include:

- A. *No high-hazard pesticides will be used;*
- B. *Minimizes disruptions of natural controls;*
- C. *Minimizes hazards to human health;*
- D. *Minimizes negative impacts to non-target organisms;*
- E. *Minimizes damage to the general environment;*
- F. *Preserves natural or managed ecosystems;*
- G. *Likely to produce long-term reductions in pest control requirements;*
- H. *Effective implementation is operationally feasible;*
- I. *Cost effectiveness in the short and long term.*

Timing: Involves applying a treatment action during a vulnerable time in the life cycle of the vegetation or pest while minimizing impact on natural predators and/or other non-target organisms.

Monitoring: Involves the regular surveying of sites and/or features to improve understanding and identify the location and extent of potential pest management problems.

Evaluation: Involves analysis of treatment strategies and prescriptions to help determine the effectiveness of the control program. These records are useful in developing future pest management plans.

IPM Practices: Integrated pest control plans that are specific to a variety of pest management situations and/or pests and vegetation; these plans are based on the principles of IPM.

Pest: Any organism, including plants, animals, and diseases, which by the situation or size of its population adversely interferes with the aesthetic, health, environmental, functional, or economic goals of humans.

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*Legal References:      RCW17.21.020      Posting and notification of pesticide applications at Schools*

## **INTEGRATED VEGETATION AND PEST MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES**

The Bainbridge Island School District will implement IPM programs in accordance with the requirements of Policy 6522: Integrated Vegetation and Pest Management.

### IPM Practices

IPM Practices will be developed by the IPM Coordinating Committee, and recommended to and approved by the school board of directors. IPM Practices will be developed for the primary pest control issues anticipated by the district. For each pest control issue, the IPM Practices will set out: threshold and action levels, pest management strategy, timing of management activities, and monitoring plan.

### Notification and Timing

At the beginning of each school year or upon enrollment, the safety officer *and/or principal* will provide written information to all school district staff, students, and parents regarding anticipated pest control activities within the school district. The safety officer may distribute amended written information as appropriate. This information will include the names of all compounds that may be used. An approximate date of anticipated application will be listed and a telephone number for parents or eligible students (18 years old or older) to call to access exact dates. By 5 p.m. on Friday of each week, the message on this line will contain information on planned fertilizer or pesticide applications that may be made in the coming school week. Signs will be posted at least 48 hours before any application, except in a case where the safety officer or his/her designee determines that immediate action is required. *Signs will be placed at the location of the application, at each primary point of entry to the school grounds and in the main office of the school.* If immediate action is required, signs will still be posted.

The pesticide notifications sign must be a minimum of 8.5 inches by 11 inches and use bold, uppercase 36-point type with the following header: "WARNING PESTICIDES"; *and use bold, upper and lower case 18-point type with the following information:* the trade and generic name of the pesticide; the date and time of application; the rate of application; the area to be treated; *the pest to be controlled;* the name and phone number of the contact person for the application; the name and phone number of the responsible party where the pesticide label and material

safety data sheets may be obtained; and a boxed-off warning stating: "CAUTION: Individuals taking medication, pregnant women, infants, children, and individuals with respiratory or heart disease, chemical sensitivities, or weakened immune systems may be particularly susceptible to adverse health effects due to pesticide exposure."

*The pesticide notification sign shall be printed in colors contrasting to the background.*

*The pesticide notification signs shall remain in place for a minimum of twenty-four hours from the time the application is completed. In the event the pesticide requires a restricted entry interval greater than twenty-four hours, the pesticide notification sign shall remain in place consistent with the restricted entry interval time as required by the label.*

Any pesticide application will be timed to minimize adverse effects to human health and beneficial organisms. Any pest control activities will be conducted in consideration of effects on classroom activities.

#### Roles and Responsibilities

The IPM Coordinating Committee will include the capital projects manager, safety officer, the maintenance staff, and up to two each of the following: parent representatives, community representatives, teacher representatives, and student representatives. The IPM Coordinating Committee will select a chairperson.

IPM Coordinating Committee: The IPM Coordinating Committee will:

1. Decide whether or not to recommend IPM practices using the following criteria:
  - a. principles of IPM
  - b. need for control of the pest or vegetation management problem
  - c. whether the use of a pesticide is a necessary element of the IPM practice
  - d. whether the IPM practice minimizes impacts on human health and the environment, will be effective in the long-term, and is cost effective
2. Evaluate and rank all pesticide products proposed for use by the maintenance and grounds staff prior to purchase. The criteria for ranking and approval, not necessarily in the order of importance, are as follows:
  - a. completeness of information (The IPM Coordinating Committee shall make a reasonable attempt to discover the ingredients of pesticides used in the District, and will show a preference for those products for which all information is available.)
  - b. evaluation of application methods, scale of application, elements of exposure, and buffer zones (The IPM Coordinating Committee shall not allow scheduled pesticide applications on a weekly or monthly basis. No pesticide fogging or space spraying will be done. Insecticides will be used only in containerized baits or for spot treatments targeted to insect nests or problem areas where a minimal amount of material will be used.)
  - c. registration by the EPA

- d. *meet requirements for non-use of high hazard pesticides*
- e. human health effects
- f. wildlife and water quality impacts
- g. mobility and persistence in the environment
- h. potential impacts to non-target organisms
- i. active and inert ingredients
- j. pesticide classification

3. Provide to the school board of directors an evaluation/recommendations for modifications of the IPM program and practices:
  - a. an annual review
  - b. additional recommendations for specific practices such as the existing Woodward Middle School motion 43-93-94 (which states, "The district will not permit the application of herbicides to the grounds of the school.") will be recommended by the IPM Coordinating Committee and must be passed by a motion of the board of directors.

Capital Projects Manager: The Capital Projects Manager (or superintendent's designee) will:

1. Coordinate the compliance of the IPM program with applicable laws, rules, regulations, and policies.
2. Coordinate development of landscape and engineering design criteria for use in facility and landscape development projects.
3. Be responsible for final approval of all pesticide applications.

Maintenance/Grounds Staff: The maintenance and grounds staff will:

1. Perform research needed to facilitate implementation of the IPM program.
2. Make product recommendations to, and seek product approval from, the IPM coordinating council or the Washington Toxics Coalition prior to utilizing a pesticide or fertilizer on District property.
3. Coordinate development of site inventories and pest control priorities for each school.

Principal: Each principal will:

1. *Provide written notification annually or upon enrollment to inform staff, students, and parents about the District's IPM program, including the posting and notification requirements.*

Safety Officer: The safety officer will:

1. Coordinate training of the maintenance and grounds staff and other staff members involved in pest control activities. Training will occur on at least a yearly basis.
2. *Coordinate and assist each principal with annual written notification plan informing staff, students and parents about the District's IPM program, including the posting and notification requirements.*