# Integrated Pest Management

## Purpose

The purpose in establishing this policy is to help provide a safe and healthy learning, working and playing environment for students, staff, families and users of Sedro-Woolley School District properties. We propose to achieve this through the adoption of this Integrated Pest Management Policy ("IPM Policy"). The IPM Policy is intended to keep unwanted vegetation and pests at acceptable levels in effective, environmentally safe, and economical ways. The health and safety of our students, staff and families are our primary concern.

## Integrated Pest Management Practices

The Integrated Pest Management Program ("IPM Program") is an ecological approach to controlling unwanted vegetation, plant diseases, and problem pest populations by the use of preventive and non-chemical methods of pest and vegetation management that minimize risks to human health and the environment.

For the purposes of this Policy, a "pest" includes any insect rodent, nematode, snail, weed, fungus or other form of plant or animal life that adversely interferes with the aesthetic, health, safety, environmental or economic goals of the District. A pest does not include viruses or microorganisms on or in a living person or animal, but shall include plant diseases.

The term "pesticide" includes any chemical agent registered as a pesticide by the Washington State Department of Agriculture, which can be an herbicides, insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides, or other chemical that repels, changes the regular growth rate of, kills, or otherwise reduces levels of a targeted pest or pests.

The District will perform regular monitoring to determine if and when intervention is necessary and may employ physical, biological, and educational tactics as primary controls to prevent intolerable damage or annoyance from pests. Least-toxic pesticides may be used as a last resort.

Integrated Pest Management ("IPM") uses preventive and non-chemical methods of control first. These control methods are recorded, monitored, repeated when necessary, and evaluated to determine their degree of success. If the desired effect is not achieved, other alternative methods will be considered in each specific case. When alternative methods have been employed, evaluated and determined to be unsuccessful, as a last resort, chemical controls may be used in accordance with the Pesticide Use and Selection section of this Policy.

The Pesticide Use and Selection section of this Policy provides the criteria that determine what pesticides may be used. When pesticides are deemed necessary, minimal use of the least toxic herbicides or pesticides and use of formulations with the least potential for human exposure shall be used. Applications will be timed to minimize exposure to students and staff and to minimize

the pesticide's effect on the environment (including salmon streams, animal and bird populations, and beneficial organisms). If applications become necessary, they will be timed to fall at the beginning of summer, winter and spring breaks, whenever possible.

Vegetation and pest control activities will be conducted only after consideration is given to potential student exposure both outdoors and within buildings, as well as its effects on classroom activities.

The District will work toward a composting practice to help improve soil quality and promote beneficial soil micro-organisms that will help ward off plant diseases and unwanted vegetation.

When possible, and as resources permit, the Grounds Maintenance Department will implement pest control strategies aimed at eliminating some of the causes of pest infestation, such as preventative practices, natural landscaping, soil improvements, and aeration

## Pesticide Use and Selection

Soil amendments and fertilizers to be used by the District must be determined to be free of toxic waste or other hazardous materials. Fertilizers will not include those containing herbicides or moss killers. Fertilizers will have the N-P-K ratio (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium) recommended by Cooperative Extension for the Pacific Northwest, and be slow-release nitrogen types to minimize excess run off and contamination of surface water. The District Grounds Maintenance Department will make every effort to apply fertilizers to play fields and lawn areas when students, staff, coaches or others will not be present for at least 24 hours following fertilizer applications.

Pesticides will be used only if necessary to protect the health and safety of students and staff, or as a last resort in controlling problematic vegetation or pests according to the methods prescribed in the previous section, Integrated Pest Management Practices. No high-hazard pesticides will be used. If a pesticide meets any of the following criteria, it will constitute a high-hazard pesticide:

a. The pesticide is classified as highly acutely toxic (Hazard Category I or II) by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (signal word for Hazard Category I or II products = DANGER or WARNING);
b. The pesticide is a restricted use pesticide (use of the product is restricted to certified pesticide applicators);
c. The pesticide contains ingredients that the United States Environmental Protection Agency has not evaluated and determined to contain no possible, probable, known or likely carcinogens;
d. The pesticide contains reproductive toxicants (CA Prop 65 list);
e. The pesticide contains ingredients listed by Illinois EPA as known, probable or suspected endocrine disruptors;
f. The pesticide contains nervous system toxicants (neurotoxic by mode of action--defined as pesticides in the organophosphate, carbamate, pyrethrin, and pyrethroid

classes of chemicals);

g. The pesticide contains ingredients that have a soil half-life of more than 100 days;
h. The pesticide contains ingredients that have high or very high mobility in soil, according to Groundwater Ubiquity Score (GUS) Index;
i. The pesticide is labeled as toxic to fish, birds, bees (except products used specifically to control bees in situations where they pose a hazard to humans), wildlife, or domestic animals.

In cases where preventive and non-chemical pest control strategies prove inadequate, and pests present a human health or safety hazard, least-toxic pesticides may be used as a last resort. These pesticides may be used if they do not constitute a high-hazard pesticide under the criteria outlined above and they meet the following criteria:

j. The pesticide's active ingredient has soil half-life of 30 days or less (unless the active ingredient is a mineral);
k. The pesticide's active ingredient has extremely low or very low mobility in soil;
l. The pesticide is not labeled as toxic to fish, birds, bees (except products used specifically to control bees in situations where they pose a hazard to humans), wildlife, or domestic animals.

No pesticide will be used if the District does not have information on all the pesticide's active ingredients.

No routinely scheduled (e.g. seasonal, monthly, or weekly) pesticide applications (other than fertilizers) will be made. No pesticide fogging or space spraying will be performed. 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.

Pesticides (other than fertilizers) will not be used solely for aesthetic purposes. Cost and staffing are not sufficient justification for use of a pesticide unless reviewed by and approved by a majority vote of a quorum of the Integrated Pest Management Coordinating Committee (the "IPM Committee").

Adopted: May 29, 2001