URBAN & SMALL FARM INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)

A research and extension program to increase the adoption and implementation of Integrated Pest Management within New Mexico’s small farms, gardens and urban environments

PROGRAM AIMS AND BACKGROUND

The Urban/Small Farm Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program aims to improve the environment, health and economic competitiveness of the state’s small-scale growers, organic producers, land managers and other clients by increasing awareness and implementation of IPM. The latter helps reduce unnecessary insecticide use through increased knowledge, understanding and use of alternatives to chemical controls, including biological, cultural and physical control tactics.

Working throughout the state, our program provides a wide variety of research-based pest management information to our target audiences via:

- Workshops
- Field days
- Pesticide applicator training
- Printed materials
- Development of IPM strategies for New Mexico crops and conditions
- Farm walks
- Conference presentations
- Table-top displays
- Individual advice

Contact: Dr. Tess Grasswitz, Urban/Small Farm IPM Specialist, NMSU-Los Lunas, 1036 Miller Rd., Los Lunas, NM. 87031. Tel: (505) 865-7340 E-mail: tgrasswi@nmsu.edu

PRINCIPAL PROGRAM AREAS

- Small farms
- Organic Systems
- Home Gardens
- Schools (Buildings & Grounds)
- Landscapes

PARTNERSHIPS

Our program has developed joint programs, projects, or other activities with the following entities:

- New Mexico Organic Program
- Western School IPM Working Group
- Western Small Farm IPM Working Group
- IPM Institute of North America
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- New Mexico Public Schools Facilities Authority
- WERA-1017: Coordination of Integrated Pest Management Research and Extension Programs for the Western States & Pacific Basin Territories
SELECTED IMPACTS

- Increased ability of workshop participants to correctly identify common pests and beneficial insects (from an average of 15% before training to an average of 75% after training), helping to reduce unnecessary pesticide use by small-scale growers (IPM ‘Bug Nights’ program 2010-11).

- Increased availability of organic control options for New Mexico fruit producers through research and by working with manufacturers to register key pest management products in New Mexico.

- 100% increase in understanding of how ‘farmscaping’ contributes to pest management amongst attendees at a 2011 series of organic farm walks; 100% intention of attendees to adopt at least one farmscaping practice in the next 1-3 years, helping to increase the biodiversity and sustainability of New Mexico’s small-scale farms.

- School IPM training provided for representatives of 12 New Mexico school districts, 2 independent schools, 7 Native American communities and the University of New Mexico, potentially reducing pesticide exposure in more than 90 schools and impacting over 75,000 students, 13,500 faculty and nearly 5,000 other staff (2010-12).

- Two New Mexico school IPM pilot projects honored by the US Environmental Protection Agency as part of the latter’s national ‘IPM Innovator’ team award for implementing IPM in schools, impacting approx. 17,000 students, 1,100 teachers and 1,000 staff (2012).

- More than 100 NRCS field staff trained in the principles of IPM, the NRCS IPM practice standards, and the potential role of the NRCS in promoting IPM through its cost-share programs for farmers (2011-12).

- Joint development (with the NRCS) of a list of recommended pollinator plants for New Mexico (to guide beekeepers, home gardeners and commercial growers applying for pollinator planting options under NRCS cost-share programs)(2010-12).

New Mexico State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer & educator. NMSU and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.

If you have a disability requiring auxiliary service to participate in any of our events, please contact the organizers at least 7 days prior to the event of interest.

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