



## **INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)**

### **UWSP FACILITY SERVICES GROUNDS WORK UNIT**

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Integrated pest management (IPM) is a systematic approach to controlling pests that combines common-sense practices to eliminate favorable conditions for pests with minimal pesticide use, only when other methods have failed. The UW-Stevens Point IPM is an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices and the use of resistant planting varieties. We use pesticides only after monitoring indicates other alternatives are not effective according to established guidelines. We select and apply pest control materials in a manner that minimizes risks to health, beneficial and non-target organisms, and the environment.

#### **1. Monitoring**

We monitor areas of campus for the type and amount of problems caused by pests. We set an action threshold, a point at which pest populations or environmental conditions indicate control action must be taken. Monitoring population and damage caused by pests allows for determination of appropriate control decision that can be made in conjunction with the action threshold. Monitoring and identification removes possibility of pesticides will be used when they are not needed, or the wrong product is used to address.

#### **2. Mowing**

We mow most of turf on campus at 3". We mow some of our athletic fields shorter than 3". The benefits of mowing 3" plus include weed die out due to decreased competition from shaded root zones. All machines are cleaned and inspected after use to insure no transfer of diseased material or pests.

#### **3. Irrigation**

We try to maintain 1" of water per week on irrigated turf. All irrigated turf areas include smart rain sensor systems to adjust the amount used based on weather events. We adjust timing of watering and frequency of watering to lessen our chances of disease.

#### **4. Weed Control**

We try to do as much hand weeding as possible in the planting beds and around trees on campus. We use hardwood mulch around trees and in planting beds to protect root zones, conserve water and protect the plants from machinery damage. Spraying is used to control large areas weeds in rock beds, parking lots, sidewalk cracks and other areas where hand weeding would not be cost effective. Boom spraying is done normally twice per year on athletic fields.

## **5. Pest control**

We use chemical and mechanical control as needed, depending on damage and targeted at specific pests. All of our full time grounds staff are certified to spray pesticides (3.0 turf and ornamental). All pesticide applications shall be done in accordance with Wisconsin Administrative code ATCP 29.

## **6. Biological turf management**

This combines the best of conventional and organic methods with an emphasis on attaining naturally productive soils that display a high level of biological activities. We use fertilizers that are organic based (Nature Safe products). Overseeding to maintain thick lawn, multiple varieties of aerifying soil, (deep tine aerification, core aerification) to avoid compaction. Rain sensors on irrigation clocks.

## **7. Sustainability initiatives**

We have numerous locations on campus where we implemented rain gardens, bioswales, green roofs and native plantings. We are a 'Tree Campus USA' and also a bee friendly campus. We have a campus garden and several green space gardens on campus.

## **8. Snow removal**

We are always trying to find a balance of mechanical removal with the best possible chemical practices to limit the use of salt while still maintaining a safe campus. All of our full time grounds staff have completed the 'Salt Wise' program. We do use salt brine in certain areas of campus.