Integrated Pest Management is the best way to keep your plants healthy and protect the environment at the same time. IPM uses a variety of control methods for plant problems, not just pesticides.

You can use less pesticide and still have a beautiful yard, if you use Integrated Pest Management.

**To Use IPM...**

1. **Identify the cause of the problem.**

   Positively identify the pest: insect, disease or weed. Many plant problems are not caused by insects or diseases and NO pesticide should be applied. Stop unnecessary pesticide use.

2. **Use several methods to control plant pests.**

   - Select plants that have few problems and will grow well in the selected site.
   - Reduce plant stress with proper watering, fertilization and pruning.
   - Monitor plants for problems.
   - Physically remove weeds with a hoe or insect pests by pinching them off. Aphids may be removed by hosing the plant with water. Use mechanical barriers like mulch that may suppress weeds.
   - Choose effective biocontrol products or least hazardous pesticides, if available.
   - Pesticides are used as part of an IPM strategy when appropriate.

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**For more information on IPM:**

Pacific Northwest Landscape IPM Manual  
Bobbitt et al., WSU Puyallup

WSU Home & Garden Fact Sheets

WSU Hortsense and Pestsense websites  
pep.wsu.edu/hortsense
pep.wsu.edu/pestsense

Common Sense Pest Control  
Olkowski et al., Taunton Press

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**For more information on the identification of insects, diseases, and weeds:**

WSU County Extension offices

Landscape Plant Problems: A Diagnostic Manual  
Byther et al., WSU Puyallup

Weeds of the West  
Whitson et al., WSU Bulletins