

Town of Los Altos Hills  
Integrated Pest Management Policy

I. Purpose and Findings

1. The City Council hereby finds and declares that it shall be the policy of the Town for Town Departments and Town contractors who apply pesticides to Town property to eliminate or reduce pesticide applications on Town property to the maximum extent feasible.
2. This policy concerns the application of the pesticides to property owned by the Town only, and does not concern the application of pesticides to property that does not owned by the Town.

II. Town Integrated Pest Management Policy

The Town, in carrying out its operations, shall assume pesticides are potentially hazardous to human and environmental health. Town departments shall give preference to reasonably available non-pesticide alternatives when considering the use of pesticides on Town property. For all pest problems on Town property, Town department shall follow the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach outline below.

1. Monitor each pest ecosystem to determine pest population, size, occurrence, and natural enemy population, if present.
2. Identify decisions and practices that could affect pest populations. Consider a range of potential treatments for the pest problem.
3. Employ non-pesticide management tactics first. Consider the use of chemicals only as a last resort.
4. Determine the most effective treatment time, based on pest biology and other variables, such as weather, seasonal changes in wildlife use and local conditions.
5. Design and construct indoor and outdoor areas to reduce and eliminate pest habitats.
6. Modify management practices, including watering, mulching, waste management, and food storage.
7. Modify pest ecosystems to reduce food and living space.
8. Use physical controls such as hand-weeding, traps and barriers.
9. Use biological controls introducing or enhancing pests' natural enemies.
10. Acquaint staff with pest biology, the IPM approach, new pest management strategies as they become known, and toxicology of pesticides proposed for use.
11. Inform the public of the Town's attempt to reduce pesticide use and respond to questions from the public about Town's pest management practices.

III. Definitions

The following terms shall have the meanings set forth below:

1. "Town department" means any department of the Town of Los Altos Hills includes any pesticide applicator hired by a Town department to apply pesticides on Town property.
2. "Contract" means a binding written agreement, including but not limited to, a contract, lease, permit, license or casement between a person, firm, corporation or other entity, and a Town department, which grants a right to use or occupy property of the Town of Los Altos Hills for a specified purpose or purposes.
3. "Contractor" means a person, firm, corporation or other entity that enters into a contract with the Town.
4. "Integrated pest management" means a decision-making process for managing pests, which uses monitoring to determine pest injury levels and combines biological, physical, and chemical tools to minimize health, environmental risks. The method uses extensive knowledge about pests, such as infestation thresholds, life histories, environmental requirements, and natural enemies to complement and facilitate biological and other natural control of pests. The method uses the least toxic synthetic pesticides only as a last resort to controlling pests.
5. "Pesticide" means pesticide as defined in Section 12753 of Chapter 2 of Division 7 of the California Food and Agricultural Code.
6. "Toxicity Category I Pesticide Product" means any pesticide product that meets United State Environmental Protection Agency criteria for Toxicity Category I under Section 156.10 of Part 156 of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
7. "Toxicity Category II Pesticide Product" means any pesticide product that meets United States Environmental Protection Agency criteria for Toxicity Category II under Section 156.10of Part 156 of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

IV. Ban on Use of Toxicity Category I and Category II

No Town department shall use any Toxicity Category I or Category II Pesticide Products

V. Notice of Pesticide Use

Any Town department that uses any pesticide shall comply with the following notification procedures:

1. Signs shall be posted at least two days before application of the pesticide product and remain posted at least tow days after application of the pesticide.
2. Signs shall be posted at every entry point where the pesticide is applied if the pesticide is applied in an enclosed area, and in highly visible locations around the perimeter of the area where the pesticide is applied if the pesticide is applied in an open area,

3. Signs shall be of a standardized design which is easily recognizable to the public and workers.
4. Signs shall contain the name and active ingredient of the pesticide product, the target pest, the date of pesticide use, the signal word indicating the toxicity category of the pesticide product, the date for re-entry to the area treated and the name and contact number for the Town department responsible for the application.
5. Town department shall not be required to post signs in right-of-way locations that the general public does not use for recreational purposes.
6. Town department may apply a pesticide without providing a two day advance, notification in the event of a public health emergency.