

Answering Your Questions on Santa Fe's Integrated Pest Management Policies

What is Integrated Pest Management?

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a multidiscipline scientific approach to mitigating the effects of undesirable biological organisms, or Pests. IPM guides the City's managers through a decision-making process designed to effectively and efficiently manage pest populations while eliminating or reducing the need to use pesticides and/or herbicides.

Has there been any change to the City's IPM Ordinance?

No.

What is a Pest?

A pest is any plant, animal or microbe that threatens Public Health or Public Safety. IPM recognizes four main groups of Pests. Undesirable plants, or weeds; invertebrate animals, including ticks, spiders, mites, snails, slugs and more; vertebrate animals like certain birds and rodents; and disease agents: bacteria, fungi, nematodes, viruses.

Why Manage Pests?

Managing pest populations is proven to minimize their impact on Public Health and Public Safety. IPM is a safe and efficient way to keep rats, roaches, wasps, weeds and other pests from destroying property or harming families.

Who can practice Integrated Pest Management for the City of Santa Fe?

The IPM Ordinance created the IPM Manager position, requiring certification and licensure as required by the New Mexico Department of Agriculture as well as a thorough understanding of biology, botany, entomology, chemistry, mathematics, species behavior, building trades, and ground maintenance best practices. The Parks Division tasks this individual with developing a Plan to integrate the four available control options: Cultural, Mechanical, Biological and Limited Chemical Control.

What strategies does the IPM Manager employ to control Pests?

SFCC 10-7 ensures the Public Health and Safety is protected from undesirable consequences attributed to poor management of pest populations by requiring the Parks Division to actively and aggressively manage Pests on City Property.

The IPM Ordinance does not ban all use of chemicals. However, it does require the Parks Division to make every effort to control damaging pest populations with non-chemical control strategies, to prioritize non-chemical strategies, and to only employ chemical strategies after the failure of non-chemical controls, which include prevention, sanitation and cultural practices; mechanical exclusion or physical removal; or, biological controls. ***The Parks Department is fully aligned with the will of the Council and the community in its commitment to non-chemical solutions, the principle at the heart of Integrated Pest Management policies.***

When limited chemical control is deemed necessary, what chemicals can or cannot be used?

The ordinance bans outright the use of any chemical in Toxicity Category 1 and most chemicals in Category 2, based on standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency. When limited chemical control is deemed absolutely necessary, Category 3 or lower chemicals are used.

The City relies on the National Pesticide Information Center, the State of California's Prop 65 List, the World Health Organization – IARC, and peer-reviewed research from the American Entomological Society, the International Society of Arboriculture, the American Horticultural Society, the New Mexico Extension Service, the Texas A&M Extension Service and others for decisions around and research on pesticides or other chemicals and the dangers they present or do not present to public health.

Given that IPM is designed to eliminate or reduce the use of chemicals, how often does the IPM Manager employ them?

In addition to stringent advance public notice requirements, the Parks Department, by ordinance, keeps an exhaustive list of all instances in which chemicals have been used in the past five (5) calendar years, posted to the website below and available at request by phone.

In 2016, limited chemical control was utilized four times. Details of application are available in the IPM Manager's Annual Report.

How do we find out where and what chemicals have been or will be used?

The ordinance lays out a strict schedule of public notification in advance of the application of any chemical control methods, requiring signage posted at least 24 hours in advance and remaining in place for up to seven (7) days following application.

A detailed list of past applications is available on the website below.

Where can I read more?

The City Integrated Pest Management Policy **10-7.3 SFCC – 2007** can be found at http://www.santafenm.gov/media/files/Parks_Recreation/Parks/IPM/City_of_Santa_Fe_IPM_Ordinance_City_Code_Chapter_X_Section_10-7.pdf

For more information on Integrated Pest Management, research and data, and other topics, please visit the City's IPM site at: http://www.santafenm.gov/integrated_pest_management_ipm,

For a printed copy, please contact Parks Division Administration at (505) 955-2100.