

IPM Workshops for Schools and/or Municipal Properties

Report on a Community IPM Project

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Collaborators: Selected BOCES and county CCE's, Community IPM Working Group members

Introduction: Reducing risks from both pests and pesticides in schools is an increasingly important issue in NYS and nationally. Similar attention is developing concerning pest management on municipally owned properties. Activities include action by local, state, and national legislators and agencies. A variety of private activist groups are also focusing on how pests are managed on school and municipal properties. When pesticide reduction efforts are encouraged or mandated, assistance is needed in the administration and implementation of IPM. The Community IPM Program has held IPM training workshops for the past two years in several locations throughout the state. Feedback from these workshops plus other surveys have revealed the desire and need for continued IPM training of school and municipal personnel.

Objectives: Develop and conduct four workshops that provide instruction on implementing IPM in school and/or municipal settings. The workshop locations will be distributed throughout NYS. Two workshops will be in the summer/fall of 2000 while two will be in the winter of 2001. Presentations will be made on the concepts and tenets of structural, turf, and landscaping IPM. The audience will interact with successful IPM practitioners. Pest management tools that fit into an IPM program will be demonstrated. As a result of the workshops, participants will have improved their abilities to implement IPM.

Results: Availability of the DEC municipal non-toxic pest management training grants affected the "market" for municipal outreach. Thus all four workshops are focused on school IPM. One workshop was held in October in Rensselaer County. The other three workshops will be conducted this coming winter. I have a excellent distribution of the workshops with one each in eastern, western, southern and northern NYS. Following is a synopsis of each workshop.

Location: Castleton, Rensselaer Co.

Date: October 23, 2000

Collaborator: Questar III BOCES

Location: Fredonia, Chautauqua Co.

Date: January 25, 2001

Collaborator: ECC BOCES

Location: Binghamton, Broome Co.
Date: February 6, 2001
Collaborator: BDT BOCES

Location: Philadelphia, Jefferson Co.
Date: February 12, 2001
Collaborator: CCE of Jefferson Co.

Impact: One of the four workshops has been conducted to date. This Rensselaer County workshop had approximately 20 in attendance, all school personnel. In the workshop's evaluation, all respondents reported an increase in their pest management knowledge. Most rated the individual sessions highly. Three of the evaluation respondents indicated that they plan to implement new turf IPM practices within the coming year. Individual respondents also indicated several other IPM practices that they plan to implement.