

# **Integrated Pest Management Practices for Rural Communities Project Report**

**Submitted by:**  
Kristen Stewart  
Extension Educator  
CCE Schuyler County

## **Objective:**

The objective of this project was to educate individuals in rural counties on environmentally sound and safe ways to manage pests.

The program targeted Chemung, Cortland, Tioga, Tompkins and Schuyler counties. The target audience included local residents, homeowners, Environmental Management Councils, municipalities, county officials, pesticide applicators and lawn and landscape professionals.

The session was developed to offer participants a broader perspective of what IPM is and how it is used as a pest management system to provide long term management of pests, not temporary eradication of them.

## **Impact**

A five-hour workshop was held to educate individuals on IPM practices and how they can be implemented. The workshop was held in Dryden, NY, on February 3, 2000, a central meeting location for the five counties.

Workshop topics included:

- What is Integrated Pest Management
- Alternatives to Chemical Pest Control
- Scouting and Identifying Pests
- Protecting Water and Natural Resources
- Landscaping and Ecological Lawn Care.

Additional information on pesticide education was offered, including changes and new regulations from NYS Department of Environmental Conservation beginning January 21, 2000. Mailings, press releases, newsletter articles, and personal contact identified potential participants.

Thirty individuals participated in the workshop. About ½ of the participants had attended a CCE sponsored event in the past. The participants' backgrounds varied although many worked in the landscape industry. The speakers and workshop presenters were drawn from Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cornell IPM program, and Cornell University, that included Lynn Braband, Cornell Community IPM Program; Jana Lamboy, Cornell IPM Program; Carolyn Klass, Cornell Department of Entomology; and Walter Nelson,

Extension Educator, CCE Chemung County. Each workshop session ranged from 30-45 minutes in length.

Educational materials were provided to the participants for future reference and included:

- What is IPM
- Safer Alternatives for Pest Management
- Biorational Controls for Use by Herbaceous Perennial Producers
- NYS IPM program
- Eco Gardening-IPM of Roses
- Management of White Grubs in NYS
- South Central New York Horticulture Notes
- DEC Pest Management Information Series #1-3
- Pesticide Management Education Program at Cornell
- NYS DEC Pesticide Control and Certification Regulations.

Speakers also supplied additional information and at the end of the workshop, an evaluation form was requested from each participant to rate the overall effectiveness of the program. Of the 30 attendees, 19 turned in evaluations. The results of the survey showed that generally people had heard of IPM, but wanted more information on how to implement IPM strategies. Of the 19 respondents, 12 are currently implementing IPM practices.

### **Conclusion**

It was determined that from evaluation responses and class interaction more specific courses would be well received in the future. This need was evident from evaluation responses and class interaction. A follow-up class was suggested specifically designed for landscape and lawn care professionals. Other target audiences include commercial farms, school and residential building personnel and buildings and grounds workers.

Attached are a copy of the proposed project budget and the actual expenses incurred, and a summary of the 19 evaluations received.