Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Integrated Pest Management is a sound, sensible approach to dealing with pests—insects, plant diseases, weeds, and more—with methods that protect human health and the environment while saving money.

The Steps of IPM …

**... for Agriculture:**
- **Inspection and Monitoring**
  - Monitor for pests; rotate crops, keep gutters clean.
- **Weather Forecasting**
  - Know how many pests and what they are inhabiting.
- **Identification**
  - Effective treatment depends on proper pest identification.
- **Plan According to Thresholds**
  - Zero tolerance for indoor and structural pests, like cockroaches, bed bugs, and pests in structures.
- **Mechanical Control**
  - Prevent pest entry with physical barriers, like plastic mulch.
- **Cultural Control**
  - Rotate crops, reduce planting density.
- **Chemical Control**
  - Use the least toxic pesticide available that will do the job.
- **Biological Control**
  - Import natural enemies of pests, like milky spore disease.

**Implement IPM Tactics**
- **Cultural Control**
  - Record-Keeping
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- **Mechanical Control**
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**Evaluate Effectiveness**
- Determine if the treatments were effective.
- Determine whether the IPM plan needs to be changed.
- Regularly assess what was learned.

**More Examples of Tactics**
- Cultural Control
  - Winterizing of plants, such as tomatoes, after a freeze to prevent cold damage.
- Mechanical Control
  - Placing traps to capture pests.
- Biological Control
  - Using natural enemies of pests, like milky spore disease.
- Chemical Control
  - Carefully weigh environmental costs and benefits when choosing among conventional and organic pesticides.

**... for Structures and Communities:**
- **Inspection and Monitoring**
  - Scout landscapes and buildings to locate pests.
- **Record-Keeping**
  - Know how many pests and what they are inhabiting.
- **Identification**
  - Effective treatment depends on proper pest identification.
- **Plan According to Thresholds**
  - Zero tolerance for indoor and structural pests, like cockroaches, bed bugs, and pests in structures.
- **Mechanical Control**
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