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## **Cosmetic Pesticide Reduction legislation should not include Integrated Pest Management (IPM)**

Integrated Pest management (IPM) was initially a concept created by landscapers who wished to reduce use of synthetic pesticide chemicals, and instead use natural methods, biological controls, and culture methods as their first choice for handling weed and insect problems. However, no clear definition of IPM was ever arrived at for landscaping. Unlike a ban on specific pesticides, IPM may be interpreted in vastly different ways.

Those landscapers who relied on pesticide use often continued to use pesticide chemicals as their first option, despite claiming they were following IPM. Presently, the landscape industry has co-opted the concept of IPM, presenting it as the industry's alternative to cosmetic pesticide bans.

Industry representatives may adopt the language of "sustainable landscaping" while remaining dependent on toxic chemicals.

### **Summation**

- Despite its original intention, IPM as presently practiced relies heavily on pesticides.
- Under IPM, the use of pesticides has actually increased in some communities instead of decreasing<sup>1</sup>

**Recommendation:** When enacting laws to reduce cosmetic pesticide use in landscaping, avoid including the term Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in your regulations. Use of language such as "pesticide reduction" or "pesticide reduction strategies" will be clearer and more likely to lead to the intended result.

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<sup>1</sup> [Calgary pesticide use skyrockets Ban on chemicals goes to city committee next week](http://tinyurl.com/5jg9p2) Published June 19, 2008 by Adrian Morrow in Fast Forward Weekly News (Calgary). To view article online at <http://tinyurl.com/5jg9p2>. See also *The Community Press*, Ottawa, March 2, 2007, which reports: "When the issue arose in 2002," said Dr. Sears, "the lawn-care industry said that, using the guidelines of the IPM program, they could reduce pesticide use by more than 50 per cent. The city gave them two years to show what they could do and at the end of that time the amount of pesticide use on Ottawa lawns had actually increased to about 5 metric tonnes per year."