

The US Environmental Protection Agency defines IPM as:

"... an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management that relies on a combination of common-sense practices. IPM programs use current, comprehensive information on the life cycles of pests and their interaction with the environment. This information, in combination with available pest control methods, is used to manage pest damage by the most economical means, and with the least possible hazard to people, property, and the environment."

You may also simply think of it as "intelligent" pest management. You may already be practicing IPM and you don't even know it.

Consider your OWN gardening practices for a moment:

1. How do you currently address plant problems and pests?
2. What examples of monitoring do you practice?
3. List examples of mechanical/physical control you already use in the garden.
4. List examples of cultural control you already use in the garden.
5. List examples of biological control you have in the garden.
6. Describe your use of pesticides and fertilizer in the garden.

There is always room for improvement! Consider 5 different ways to improve your practice of IPM in your own garden. Pair up with a classmate and briefly discuss.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.