



IPM vs. OPM

Integrated Pest Management
vs. Organic Pest Management



Did you know?

- ❖ Communities that allow conventional IPM put their trust in pesticide applicators and homeowners, relying on each to select the least risky pesticides and fertilizers and apply them correctly
- ❖ IPM communities allow retailers to sell unlimited quantities of conventional pesticides no matter how controversial or toxic to unborn babies, bees and sea life



Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

IPM lawn care borrows techniques from organic pest management but couples them with the use of conventional pesticides, **selected by each pesticide applicator or homeowner regardless of training or skill**

- In the 1970s, integrated pest management - IPM - was touted as the solution to public outcry over the risks of conventional pesticides
- IPM allows the use of glyphosate (Roundup), 2,4-D (one ingredient in Agent Orange), imidacloprid (a neonicotinoid) and all other conventional pesticides no matter how controversial
- IPM has been the standard practice among Maine's licensed pesticide applicators for decades
- Between 1995 and 2011, sale of pesticides in Maine rose 700% according to the Maine Board of Pesticide Control





Organic Pest Management (OPM)

OPM lawn care is centered on site evaluation, soil testing, aeration, proper mowing, topdressing with compost and ongoing monitoring coupled on occasion with organic pesticides, which are **determined by scientists to be least toxic and updated on a federal list**

Did you know?

- ❖ Maine is home to the country's oldest and largest state-based organic organization, the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
- ❖ In 2016, the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association certified 500 Maine farms & food businesses
- ❖ The Northeast Organic Farming Association Connecticut branch, has accredited more than 2,000 landscapers in organic land care and recently brought its 4-day course to USM due to demand in Maine

- In 1990 the U.S. National Organic Program established a federal certification system for farms and a regularly updated list of prohibited and allowed pesticides, such as Bt, boric acid, essential oils and diatomaceous earth
- More than 25 Maine cities and towns have adopted ordinances and policies restricting conventional pesticides and requiring organic practices
- Organic pesticides are allowed under OPM lawn care, but not all OPM practitioners use pesticides
- Unlike conventional pesticides which can be very long lived, organic-approved pesticides break down rapidly in the environment and present significantly lower risks

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