Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Checklist

Here are pest reduction recommendations from Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens IPM Specialist Braley Burke. Let us know how these solutions work in your institution!

Prevention Is Key

- ☐ Get rid of problem plants and find a plant that is less likely to get pests.
- ☐ Change your environment!
  - Install screens
  - Change watering frequency as needed
  - Use slow-release fertilizers
  - Increase ventilation by adding fans
  - Space out plants so if one gets a pest, the others may not
- ☐ Clean your space!
  - Remove weeds or plant debris that may harbor pests
  - Take out your plant waste and other trash every day
  - Keeping areas clean and free of clutter to help reduce pest hiding places.
- ☐ Sanitize your equipment with 70% alcohol between uses to prevent diseases.

Get the Facts

- ☐ Scout for pests and try to catch the problem early on.
  - Use sticky traps (blue for thrips, yellow for general)
  - Routinely check plants
- ☐ Properly identify the pest and use management practices that make sense for that pest.
- ☐ Keep records! When and where did pests occur? What was done to control the pest?

Use Pesticides Responsibly

- ☐ Use your pesticides effectively.
  - Some pesticides recommend applying them on cloudy days or increasing humidity, some do better when the water pH is higher or lower.
- ☐ Use selective pesticides. For example, if you have a caterpillar problem, use a pesticide that only targets caterpillars. This causes less disruption in the environment so natural predators aren't disturbed.
- ☐ Consider your pesticide use rate. If the range is 1-4 oz. per gallon to control aphids, use a lower range to reduce the amount of active ingredient you're using while also reducing resistance to the pesticide.
- ☐ Use pesticides that are compatible with biological control and natural enemies.
- ☐ Only apply pesticides in problem areas.

Consider Alternative Strategies

- ☐ Spray plants with jets of water
- ☐ Increase or decrease humidity (depending on the pest)
- ☐ Remove pests by hand (volunteers can be very useful for this!)
- ☐ Use biological control. Purchase or take advantage of native pest predators!
- ☐ Read about your pest from a reliable source (.edu) to find alternative tactics!
- ☐ Use combinations of techniques and figure out what works best for your institution