

## Review Article

### **A Review of “The Homeowner’s Guide to Integrated Pest Management.”**

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#### **The Homeowner’s Guide to Integrated Pest Management**

Producers: Carrie R. Foss (Pesticide Education Associate) and  
Carol A. Ramsay (Extension Pesticide Education Coordinator)

This video presents the principles of IPM and explains how home gardeners can use them. It is designed for a lay audience. The review panel represents both the target audience and Extension educators who might use this video in educational programs. In addition to the credentials listed above, all reviewers are avid gardeners at home and, as volunteers, in their communities.

Date: 2000  
Format: Video (VHS)  
Length: 23 minutes  
Source: Cooperative Extension, Washington State University  
Target Audience: Master gardeners, garden clubs, homeowners

**Pat Hipkins is a pesticide safety educator who has worked with master gardener programs and trained pesticide applicators for over 10 years. Pat has also developed a number of training media for pesticide safety education uses. Pat’s comments include:**

*This video is a good basic introduction to IPM principles and practices. Its organization (in sections, with clearly identified breaks and good transitions) makes it easy to follow. It is fast paced and uses clever techniques to focus the viewer’s attention. The program ends with a short but complete overview of key concepts presented in the program. It is somewhat unfortunate that several of the pest-host-site examples used to illustrate these points are specific to the Pacific Northwest. However, with some forethought and preparation, an educator in another region can cite and/or show alternate examples for the same point. Overall, this is a very useful and well-constructed video.*

**Doug Harris is an Extension Agent with over 20 years experience working with Virginia Cooperative Extension. Doug has worked with various clientele groups, including master gardeners. His comments are as follows:**

*This is a good introduction to the concept of IPM for homeowners. I like the emphasis on looking for abiotic causes for landscape plant problems, rather than assuming a disease or insect is responsible. The concept of identifying "key" plants and "key" problems on which to focus monitoring efforts is a sound one that can be very useful for homeowners. The idea of "the right plant in the right place" is one that we preach in Extension, and it cannot be overemphasized as a way of avoiding many common problems. There is a good discussion of the cultural, biological (especially good), mechanical, and chemical strategies used in IPM. I like the review at the end of the tape and the reference to consult an Extension office for more information.*

*My main quibble is that, in some cases, the plant/pest relationships referenced in the video are specific to the Pacific Northwest and not applicable elsewhere. A noticeable example occurs when the speaker points to root weevil damage on a rhododendron and says that it isn't a serious problem. Unfortunately, in other circumstances (ex. in Virginia), this insect is a potentially serious problem for rhododendrons in a landscape.*

**Becky Hepler is a library media specialist and a freelance writer. Before becoming a public school media specialist, she worked as a television producer for the Roanoke (VA) CBS and PBS affiliates. She is also an avid gardener. Her comments represent those of a person with expertise in visual communications as well as a member of the video's intended target audience. Becky's comments include:**

*This video is a must-see, not only for the beginning gardener, but also for those who may have been digging in the dirt for several seasons. It gives a good overview of the IPM system, creditably explaining its core concept: "the right plant for the right place." If you, the gardener, have chosen wisely and done the correct prep work, you will reduce the chance of having a pest problem. The video then addresses the point that "problem" is a relative term. Although commercial growers look at pests in an economic context (no action until the cost of the damage pests inflict is more than the cost of controlling them), many home gardeners have unrealistically high standards. Allowing NO pests can lead to pesticide overuse. So another important point made in this video is to loosen up, recognize that having some insects within your environment is normal, and get over it!*

*Inevitably, though, there will be a pest problem you cannot ignore. The video carefully explains the options in IPM, only one of which is chemical. Once again, the video advises gardeners to loosen up and get rid of a plant that cannot be cured of its pest problem. Because so many gardeners take failure personally, it can only help to have professionals saying it's okay to dig up the ailing plant and throw it away. You don't have to save every one.*

**Erica Jones has been a master gardener for over five years. Erica's comments also come from the end user's perspective. They include:**

*This is a rather good video. The video defines Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and illustrates how the home gardener can use IPM techniques. It is well organized, with catchy music. (I liked the barking dog theme.) The only major flaw is that some of the examples used to illustrate key concepts show pest-site combinations specific to Washington State. One minor flaw is that I watched most of the video before I learned anything new. I must note that my non-gardening "co-reviewer" (victim/husband) actually stayed awake and watched it, which says a lot for its appeal.*