



Expanding Verifiable Integrated Pest Management in Colorado and Utah Public Schools

Increasing School IPM in Colorado and Utah by 25 Percent



Funding Awarded: \$248,000

Overview

IPM in Schools/Surveys/Outreach/Educational Materials/Training and Workshops/Success Criteria

Although few states in the inter-mountain west have established school Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programs, Salt Lake City School District and Denver Public Schools are models. This grant will assist school districts in training personnel and establishing policies to implement IPM.

To prepare selected school districts for a transition to IPM, Colorado State University will work in conjunction with Utah State University to initiate a two-year project to improve school district-wide communication and outreach, increase IPM awareness and readiness, and initiate program development. The overall goal of this grant is to increase the number of students impacted by IPM programs from 4 to 25 percent.

The funding will also spur collaborations between stakeholders, including government agencies, school district pest control coordinators/managers, regional private and nonprofit entities, local and state public health professionals, and landscape and pest control professionals.

The adoption of IPM practices will lead to a healthier environment for Colorado and Utah students, school staff, and communities surrounding the schools.

Objectives

- Improve environmental and human health by increasing the number of schools with verifiable school IPM programs in Colorado and Utah by 25 percent.
- Support activities and projects that promote awareness, adoption, and dissemination of school IPM.
- Demonstrate best practices and provide training for IPM in 2 school districts in each state.
- Evaluate decision-making tools to substantiate costs of school IPM.
- Increase diffusion of verifiable school IPM (outreach, sustainability, transferability).
- Collaborate with other states on methodology and outreach methods.
- Increase adoption and implementation of school IPM through collaboration with partners and stakeholders.



Programs & Activities

Outreach Activities:

Conduct webinars, conference calls and face-to-face meetings.

Publish news articles, posters, identification guides, educational materials, monthly newsletters, Pest Press fact sheets and YouTube videos.

Use electronic methods to increase accessibility to educational materials.

Establish advisory committees and partnerships with pest management professionals.



Programs and Activities (continued)

Information Gathering and Sharing and Knowledge Transfer:

Conduct surveys of Colorado and Utah school districts regarding current pest management practices and assess readiness to implement IPM.

Conduct focus groups of selected schools.

Update iPestManager software tracking and reporting tools and pilot test.

Perform onsite assessments in selected schools.

Link efforts with land-grant universities and IPM Coordinators.

Training: Two, one-day workshops in each state; training with facility managers and Environmental Risk Officers in Front Range school districts.



Desired Outcomes

- To support the expansion of verifiable school IPM in Colorado and Utah school administrators, teachers, health, landscape, and pest management professionals.
- Collaborative relationships created and strengthened to foster IPM.
- Improved strategies to understand school readiness, and increased awareness of IPM in school community.
- Increased attendance and greater community diversity at state IPM meetings.
- Increased commitment and intention to implement IPM in school community.
- School staff with increased IPM strategies and capabilities.
- Two school districts in each state considering IPM policies.
- Schools and/or districts with appointed IPM coordinators.
- Educational information and effective methods shared between Colorado and Utah.
- Increased understanding and awareness of costs of implementing IPM.
- Communication tools for school IPM partners and stakeholders to strengthen/develop collaborative relationships.
- Increased awareness, knowledge, and skills to implement IPM in school communities.

