

# HOW TO CONTROL PLANT PESTS

One of the best ways to implement adequate prevention and control is through integrated pest management.

Integrated pest management (IPM) is a science-based decision making process that identifies and reduces risk from pests and pest management related strategies. IPM combines multiple strategies to control pests and the impacts. This includes animals, insects and weeds. The three cornerstones of IPM are; using multiple, complementary control tactics. Maintaining pest populations below levels that would cause economic damage and lastly, conserving the environment in the meanwhile.

## Stages for IPM

First is prevention stage which involves averting the arrival of pests. Second is control stage which requires certain measures being implemented if the pest infestation is already apparent. Necessary control measures should be employed to keep them from getting out of hand.

The last stage is the eradication stage which combines numerous methods such as chemical sterilization, hand removal and introducing natural enemies to eliminate the pest.

## Practical pest control methods

First method is the scouting method which includes looking for pests in the fields and growing areas. Preventing method which can be achieved by planting certified seeds and using strict sanitation practices. Mechanical practices is accomplished by physically destroying the pests.

Cultural practices is an indirect method of pest control which includes crop rotation, selecting resistant varieties and ensuring plants are in optimum health.

## More methods

The practical pest control method is chemical control that requires use of pesticides and herbicides to eliminate pests. Biological control involves use of other biological organisms to reduce pest populations. Natural enemies that prey on the pest may be introduced.

Lastly there are other methods which include use of mulches as well as deterrent or attractive neighbour plants.