

SKCAF Integrated Pest Management Policy

Effective Date:	January 10, 2007
Approved by SKCAF Board on:	January 10, 2007
Applicability:	All SKCAF-administered property
Manager of Responsibility:	PMD Committee Chairperson

Overview

The Maple Valley Arboretum provides multiple benefits to the community including recreational opportunities, wildlife preservation, environmental protection, and educational enrichment.

A principal purpose of the Property Management and Development (PMD) Committee is to preserve, enhance, and provide stewardship to the park resources held in public ownership. To achieve this purpose, the PMD Committee has adopted the following objectives as a guide in the implementation of its maintenance and development programs:

- Protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the community
- Cost efficient cost and effective maintenance of the Arboretum grounds
- Comprehensive stewardship of the Arboretum
- Provision of, and support to educational and recreational opportunities
- Ongoing maintenance, renovation, and enhancement of the Arboretum's display gardens, forest reserves, and nursery areas

Pest Management Practices

These PMD objectives provide the foundation for SKCAF's Integrated Pest Management policy for disease, pest and vegetation control. This policy shall include the following management practices:

- PMD shall manage an integrated pest management program that promotes plant health care and favors non-chemical pest control. When necessary, the application of pesticides shall be allowed. Note that "pesticide" refers to any chemical or biological agent that kills plant or animal pests. Herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides, etc. are all "pesticides." Use of pesticides shall be in a safe and prescribed manner as will the storage of pesticides.
- The PMD Committee will practice and encourage sound horticultural practices, resulting in a decreased reliance on chemicals to control adverse environmental

SKCAF Integrated Pest Management Policy

conditions. To this end, we will review development plans to insure appropriate plant choices, cultural conditions and amenities, and implementation procedures that will produce the healthiest plants possible particularly with regard to pest infestation. Maintenance practices will reflect a similar concern and emphasis.

- It is our policy to tolerate certain levels of weeds, insects and plant disease on Arboretum property, to the extent that public health, aesthetics and use of public land are not negatively impacted and compromised.
- We recognize the importance of minimizing phosphate loading in surface water, which may ultimately end up in our lakes, streams and estuaries. As such, we will practice and encourage the use of low phosphate fertilizers and minimize or eliminate the use of fertilizers whenever possible.
- In accordance with the Washington State licensing guidelines, we shall require all staff and contractors who are engaged in the use, application and storage of pesticides, to have a current Washington State Pesticide License. Contractors will be required to obtain prior approval before the use of any pesticides or herbicides.
- It is our policy to minimize the use and application frequency of pesticides or herbicides whenever possible. Target applications of pesticides or herbicides are preferred over broad-based applications. When the use of pesticides or herbicides is necessary, it is our policy to use the least toxic solution available to minimize any potential effects on the environment.
- All chemicals used on Arboretum property will be used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and recommendations.
- To promote public understanding and support of the benefits of the Integrated Pest Management program, it is our intent to provide educational assistance and information to the public regarding the use of pesticides.

SKCAF Integrated Pest Management Policy

Integrated Pest Management Principles

Integrated pest management deals with pests in the broadest sense for insects, mites, nematodes, pathogens, weeds, and vertebrates. This means, then, that by definition, there can be no single set of control practices that fits all situations, no "one-size-fits all" recipe for pest management. Instead, the specific elements of pest management strategies can vary. Thus, in addition to the set of practices articulated above, our policy will be to follow a set of guiding principles. These principles, which are listed below, will provide a foundation for our decisions in regards to pest control.

PRINCIPLE #1

There is no "silver bullet." There is no single best way to control any pest. Over-reliance on any method almost always has undesirable economic or ecological results. This is especially true for pesticides, where overuse leads to resistance, resurgence and replacement. We will consider all available pest control tools.

PRINCIPLE #2

Treat the causes of pest outbreaks, not just the symptoms. Stop-gap control measures such as application of pesticides that kill pests after infestations occur do not really solve pest problems in the long-run. *Integrated* Pest Management instead focuses on preventing infestations from occurring in the first place.

PRINCIPLE #3

Pest presence does not mean that there is a pest problem. Plants can tolerate infestations of many pests and survive, so keeping gardens entirely pest-free is seldom necessary. Effective growers instead seek to reduce pests to levels that do not cause permanent damage. We will only apply pesticides if pest infestations exceed action thresholds or similar guidelines.

PRINCIPLE #4

If you kill the natural enemies, you inherit their job. Naturally occurring predators, parasites, pathogens and other beneficial organisms, collectively keep populations in check. Accordingly, we will whenever possible avoid broad spectrum pesticide applications.