

# PEST CONTROL

## INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)

**OBJECTIVE:** Reduce plant & crop loss to acceptable levels with effective, affordable, and low environmental impact methods.

**APPROACH:** Choose suitable combinations of least toxic pesticides, insect-resistant plants, optimal planting schedule, monitoring of pest populations, biological control, evaluation of economic losses vs. control costs, etc.

This approach is being increasingly used in commercial agriculture but is more involved than usually needed for residential yards and gardens.

## BIOLOGICAL & NON-TOXIC CONTROL OF PESTS IN RESIDENTIAL YARDS & GARDENS

### BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

- Mosquito fish for landscape pools to control mosquitoes.
- *Bacillus thuringiensis*, a bacterial pathogen, for caterpillars and mosquito larvae.
- Parasitic wasps and flies for specific insect hosts. Ladybird beetles for aphids and other pests: Effective in greenhouses or orchards; also for a few backyard shrubs if covered with fine mesh netting ( otherwise the insects will quickly disperse).

### NON-TOXIC CONTROL

- Insecticide soap or dish washing soap (diluted). Useful on insects such as whiteflies on leaves. First use garden hose to spray plant including undersides of leaves then use hand spray bottle to spray solution on undersides of leaves.
- Boric acid in powder or liquid form for ants, cockroaches, silverfish, and other pests.
- Horticultural grade diatomaceous earth for ground barriers; in a spray for leaves. The sharp edges of this material puncture the outer “skin” of pests leading to death from dehydration.
- Horticultural oils for spraying on plants having pests.