Landscape Maintenance Supervisor

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Southern Oregon University

Integrated Pest Management Policy

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# Introduction:

Southern Oregon University is committed to environmental sustainability, as part of our commitment we have implemented an aggressive IPM policy to reduce our use of pesticides. This policy will outline the fundamental aspects of SOU’s IPM strategy. All SOU employees who apply pesticides go through rigorous training and education to become State Licensed Public Pesticide Applicators. This high level of training, along with monthly meetings ensures that our employees understand and follow our IPM strategy.

# IPM Fundamentals:

## Acceptable pest levels:

The emphasis is on *control*, not *eradication*. IPM holds that wiping out an entire pest population is often impossible, and the attempt can be expensive and environmentally unsafe.

Southern Oregon University Landscape Services has identified the presence of several pests on campus. It is our goal to keep these pests in check using a combination of methods, with pesticides being our last resort.

## Preventive cultural practices:

Selecting varieties best for local growing conditions, and maintaining healthy crops, is the first line of defense, together with plant [quarantine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quarantine) and 'cultural techniques' such as crop sanitation (*e.g.* removal of diseased plants, and cleaning pruning shears to prevent spread of infections).

Southern Oregon University Landscape Services removes dead and dying plants from campus and composts them at our compost yard for future use as soil amendment. We also are quick to identify and treat plant diseases before any outbreaks can occur.

## Monitoring:

Regular observation is the cornerstone of IPM. Observation is broken into two steps, first; inspection and second; identification.

Southern Oregon University Landscape Services is constantly visually inspecting the different areas of campus; all of our staff are trained and knowledgeable on what to look for and how to identify the presence of pests. The Public Pesticide Applicators Licenses require that all of our employees attend conferences, seminars, and continuing education classes to keep a valid license. This is very valuable because we are always made aware of new pests and outbreaks in our area to be on the lookout for.

## Mechanical controls:

Should a pest reach an unacceptable level, mechanical methods are the first option.

Southern Oregon University Landscape Services hires a number of Student Workers during the growing season as additional labor for hand weeding and clean-up of dead branches and leaves. This added labor force along with our annual Campus Clean-up Day helps ensure that our Landscape environment stays clean and free of the majority of weeds. We also put down large amounts of green waste wood chips in the planter bed areas of campus where weeds are a problem. This wood debris helps reduce the amount of germination possible from weed seeds in the soil.

## [Biological controls](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biological_pest_control):

Natural biological processes and materials can provide control, with minimal environmental impact, and often at lower cost. The main focus here is to promote [beneficial insects](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beneficial_insects) that eat or parasitize target pests.

Southern Oregon University Landscape Services planting designs incorporate specific types of flowering plants that attract predator insects to naturally encourage an acceptable predator/pest balance.

# [Responsible Pesticide Use](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pesticide_application):

## Pesticides:

Synthetic [pesticides](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pesticides) are used as required and often only at specific times in a pest’s life cycle. Many of the newer pesticide groups are derived from plants or naturally occurring substances (*e.g.* [pyrethrum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pyrethrum) and insect [juvenile hormone](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juvenile_hormone)analogues), but the [toxophore](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toxophore" \o "Toxophore) or active component may be altered to provide increased biological activity or stability. Applications of pesticides must reach their intended targets. Matching the application technique to the crop, the pest, and the pesticide is critical. The use of low-volume spray equipment reduces overall pesticide use and labor cost.

Southern Oregon University Landscape Services uses only the safest, lowest toxicity products possible for effective control of pests. Pesticide use will comply with all local, state, and federal regulations. No “restricted use “pesticides will be used. Southern Oregon University (SOU) is committed to protecting pollinators, and therefore mandates there will be no use of **Neonicotinoids** on any property owned by SOU. At all locations of treatment areas we will continue to post highly visible signs informing the students and public of what is being applied, where it is being applied, and when it is being applied.

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