UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN River Falls

Integrated pest management (IPM) is a systematic approach to controlling pests that combines common-sense practices to eliminate favorable conditions for pests with minimal pesticide use, only when other methods have failed. The UWRF IPM is an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant planting varieties. We use pesticides only after monitoring indicates other alternatives are not effective according to established guidelines. We select and apply pest control materials in a manner that minimizes risks to health, beneficial and non-target organisms, and the environment.

• Monitoring

We monitor areas of campus for the type and amount of problems caused by pests. We set an action threshold, a point at which pest populations or environmental conditions indicate control action must be taken. Monitoring population and damage caused by pests allows for determination of appropriate control decision that can be made in conjunction with the action threshold. Monitoring and identification removes possibility of pesticides will be used when they are not needed, or the wrong product is used to address.

• Mowing

We mow most turf at 3". We mow some of the athletic turf slightly shorter than 3 inches. The benefits of mowing at three + inches include weed die out due to decreased competition from shaded root zones. All machines are cleaned and inspected after use to insure no transfer of diseased material or pests.

• Irrigation

We try to maintain 1 inch of water per week on irrigated turf. All irrigated turf areas include smart rain sensor systems to adjust the amount used based on weather events. By not overwatering, we lessen our chances for disease.

• Native plants

UWRF utilizes native plants in strategic areas around campus. Native plants are more likely to survive the hardiness zone we are in, less likely to get diseases and pests, generally require less water, can grow in a wide variety of locations. This includes native trees, shrubs, perennials utilized in several areas of campus. Storm water filtration plantings and rain gardens are also used around buildings and parking lots to help protect nearby bodies of water from pollution.

• Weed control

We try to do as much hand weeding as possible in the planting beds and around trees on campus. We have been using hardwood mulches around trees and in planting beds to protects root zones, conserves water, and protect the plants from machinery damage. Spraying is used to control large areas of small weeds in rocked areas, parking lots, sidewalk cracks, and other areas where hand weeding would not be cost-effective. Boom spraying is done minimally (normally twice per year) on athletic fields.

• Pest Control

We use chemical and mechanical control as needed, depending on damage and targeted at specific pests. For more information on pesticide use on campus, see information below:

UWRF Pesticide Guidelines

1. All pesticide applications shall be done in accordance with Wisconsin Administrative Code ATCP 29 and Wisconsin statute 94.715, covering pesticide use in schools. Please find the Integrated Pest Management for Schools at the link below:

https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/SchoolIPM.aspx

2. Required signage shall be placed at potential entry points and dated for removal after sundown of the day following the application (unless a longer re-entry interval is specified by label).

A record shall be kept of applications. Minimum requirements include date and location of application, product used and amount. Records will be kept by Grounds Supervisor.

3. Read and follow all label information. All pesticides shall be handled and used in accordance with the manufacturer's label information, MSDS, state and federal requirements.

It is the responsibility of the contractor to be aware of and follow safe procedures.

4. All pesticides shall be applied by or at the direction of a WDATCP certified applicator for turf and ornamental.

5. Pesticides shall be applied to the target area only, taking into consideration drift (liquid applications) and overspreading (granular applications).

In the event of a spill, drift or overspreading, follow DNR and WATCP procedures, and also contact UW Grounds Supervisor.

6. No pesticides shall be applied on or adjacent to areas designated for use by children or along Kinnikinnic watershed area.

7. Pesticides shall be applied to University property only.

Be aware of the University's property boundaries. Any areas that pose risk for health regulations prohibit the use of pesticides.

THIS IS INTENDED AS A GENERAL GUIDELINE
ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW LABEL INSTUCTIONS

Updated 10/19/2020
UW-River Falls Grounds Maintenance