

GLOSSARY

Abiotic: Nonliving component of an ecosystem, such as temperature, soil type or amount of sunlight.

Action level: The number of pests or level of pest damage that triggers a control action.

Action threshold: (see Action level)

Active ingredient: Chemicals in a pesticide formulation that are biologically active, i.e., responsible for killing or repelling the pest.

Acute toxicity: The degree to which a substance is poisonous or injurious to an organism after short-term exposure.

Adjuvant: chemicals added to a pesticide product to improve its effectiveness.

Aesthetic injury: Visually displeasing damage to plants or structures. Annoyance or embarrassment from visibility of a pest, or damage to the appearance of plants which may reduce aesthetic appeal but does not necessarily adversely affect plant health.

Annual: A plant that completes its life cycle in one year and then dies.

Antimicrobial: Pesticides that are intended to disinfect, sanitize, reduce, or mitigate growth or development of microbiological organisms; or protect inanimate objects (for example floors and walls), industrial processes or systems, surfaces, water, or other chemical substances from contamination, fouling, or deterioration caused by bacteria, viruses, fungi, protozoa, algae, or slime, such as sanitizers and disinfectants. Although sanitizers and disinfectants are exempt from notification and posting requirements under the Healthy Schools Act, they are not exempt from licensed pest control business requirements to report pesticide use.

Augmentation: Releases of beneficial insects to establish or increase a natural population.

Bacillus thuringiensis: Insect pathogenic bacteria. A microbial insecticide effective against larval stages of many species of lepidoptera.

Bait: A food or other substance used to attract a pest to a pesticide or trap.

Barrier: Something material that prevents entry by pests into an area, such as screens on windows.

Beneficial insect: An insect that feeds on pest organisms.

Biennial: A plant that completes its growth in two years. The first year it produces leaves and stores food; the second year it produces fruits and seeds.

Biological control: Managing pests by using natural enemies such as predators, parasites and disease-causing organisms.

Biotic: The living components of an ecosystem, such as plants, animals and microorganisms.

Botanical pesticide: Pesticides derived from plants rather than synthesized.

Broad-spectrum: A pesticide effective against many species of pests.

Carcinogen: Any substance that can cause or aggravate cancer.

Chemical control: The use of a pesticide to reduce pest populations or activity.

Chronic toxicity: The capacity of a substance to demonstrate toxic effects as a result of repeated exposures over a period of time.

Common name: A name given to a pesticide active ingredient by a recognized committee on pesticide nomenclature.

Control action threshold: Pest population level at which treatment is necessary to prevent economic loss.

Corrosive: A chemical that causes visible destruction of, or irreversible alterations in, living tissue by chemical action at the site of contact.

Crack-and-crevice treatment: As defined by the Healthy Schools Act, “the application of small quantities of a pesticide consistent with labeling instructions in a building into openings such as those commonly found at expansion joints, between levels of construction and between equipment and floors.” The application of pesticides in the form of gels or pastes into cracks and crevices is exempt from the notification, posting and record keeping requirements of the Healthy Schools Act.

Cultural control: pest management practices which make the environment less favorable for pests. In schools, it involves changing people’s behaviors and habits such as sanitation and garbage pickup schedules. It also refers to alterations in landscape design and installation and maintenance of grounds to reduce pest activity and damage.

Desiccating dust: A pesticide that dehydrates living tissues.

Disinfectant: An agent that kills or controls vegetative forms of bacteria, molds, and mildews but does not ordinarily kill bacterial spores.

Dormant oil: An oil-based pesticide applied during the dormant stage of plant growth.

Economic injury level: Pest population level sufficient to cause economic losses greater than the cost of control.

Ecosystem: A self-sufficient habitat where living organisms and the abiotic environment continuously exchange matter and energy.

Emergency condition: As defined by the Healthy Schools Act, “any circumstances in which the school district designee deems that the immediate use of a pesticide is necessary to protect the health and safety of pupils, staff, or other persons, or the schoolsite.”

EPA registration number: A number assigned to a pesticide product when U.S. EPA registers the product for use. The number must appear on all labels for the product. This number must appear on the pesticide application warning sign that must be posted when applying most pesticides on schools grounds. California uses U.S. EPA registration numbers for all products except adjuvant, which are given a California registration number.

Eradication: Control of diseases or pests by their complete elimination after introduction into a certain area.

Evapotranspiration: The total water loss from a soil by being drawn up through plant tissue and evaporated from leaf and soil surfaces.

Exclusion: A quarantine, usually defined by a legislative order, to prevent entry of certain exotic pests.

Exotic: referring to a species that is not indigenous to a region.

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA): The federal law and its amendments that regulate pesticide registration and use.

Flushing: The use of an aerosol pesticide to drive a pest out of its hiding place.

Frass: The combined feces, shed skins and particles of food left by an insect pest; or the combined feces and wood fragments left by a wood-boring beetle.

Hand lens: A small, portable magnifying lens used to look at small insects.

Harborage: The hiding places or protected areas, such as cracks and crevices, which cockroaches and other pests inhabit.

Healthy Schools Act: A California right-to-know law that requires all public K-12 schools to notify, post and keep records of pesticide use (see Section One for more detail).

Herbaceous: Plants having fleshy tissues rather than persistent woody tissues.

Herbicide: Pesticide to control unwanted vegetation either before or after its emergence from the ground.

Horticultural oil: Highly refined petroleum (or seed derived) oils that are manufactured specifically to control pests on plants.

Indigenous: Native to a specified area or region.

Inert ingredient: A material in a pesticide formulation that does not have antipest activity.

Insect growth regulator (IGR): An insecticide that interferes with insect hormones, affecting the insect's ability to develop from pupa to adult or to reproduce.

Insecticide: A substance that kills or controls insects.

Integrated pest management: As defined by the Healthy Schools Act, a pest management strategy that focuses on long-term prevention or suppression of pest problems through a combination of techniques such as monitoring for pest presence and establishing treatment threshold levels, using non-chemical practices to make the habitat less conducive to pest development, improving sanitation, and employing mechanical and physical controls. Pesticides that pose the least possible hazard and are effective in a manner that minimizes risks to people, property and the environment, are used only after careful monitoring indicates that they are needed according to pre-established guidelines and treatment thresholds. (Food and Agricultural Code section 13181).

Invertebrate: An animal without a spinal column (backbone). Examples: insects, spider, mollusks.

IPM coordinator: The school employee responsible for day-to-day interpretation of the IPM policy for a school or school system. The IPM Coordinator may or may not be a pest management professional, but is the decision-maker who receives specialized training in IPM, accesses the advice of professionals and chooses a course of action. In many districts, an IPM coordinator is equivalent to the school district designee.

IPM policy: A written document stating a school's commitment to IPM and defining overall IPM goals. This document is updated periodically, and used to guide decision-making as the IPM program is implemented.

LC⁵⁰: The concentration of a substance in air that causes death in 50% of the animals exposed by inhalation. A measure of acute toxicity.

LD⁵⁰: The amount of a substance which, when taken orally or absorbed through the skin, kills half of the test animals. An expression of a compound's acute toxicity.

Least hazardous: Referring to a pest management treatment that causes the least exposure or harm to humans and the environment. The pest management method, toxicity of pesticides used and exposure to the occupants are all considered.

Life cycle: The time of development of an organism from egg or birth to reproductive capacity.

Mechanical control: Pest control methods including cultivation and burning.

Metamorphosis: To change in form, as an insect does when developing from larva to adult.

Microbial control: Pest management using a pesticide whose active ingredient is a bacteria, virus, fungus, protozoa or nematode.

Monitoring: A systematic pest inspection that is conducted at regular intervals to determine the numbers of a pest, the amount of pest damage, access to food, water and harborage sites and the effectiveness of treatment methods.

Mulch: A layer of material placed on the soil surface to prevent weed growth.

Mutagen: A chemical that is able to induce significant and permanent change in hereditary material thereby causing mutation in the succeeding generation.

Natural enemy: A predator or parasite that prey on or live in organisms in the natural habitat, thereby limiting their population.

Niche: An organism's place and role in its environment.

Nontarget species: Any plant, animal or other organism that may be accidentally damaged during a pesticide application.

Notification: A formal notice in writing to all parents and staff of a school district of expected pesticide use on a schoolsite.

Organic matter: A soil component resulting from the decay of plant and animal materials.

Perennial: A plant that lives from year to year.

Pest: Any living organism that interferes with or threatens human, animal or plant health, property or the environment. A pest in one environment may be beneficial in another.

Pest control: The use of any substance, method or device to prevent, destroy, repel, mitigate, or correct a pest infestation or inhibit, regulate, stimulate, or alter growth of plants (desirable or undesirable).

Pest proofing: A non-chemical, physical control measure to prevent the entry or movement of pests into or out of a structure or area. This includes sealing and caulking of crevices and holes, installation of screens, etc.

Pesticide: Any substance used to control, prevent, destroy, repel, attract or mitigate any pest. Pesticides include insecticides, insect repellents, miticides, herbicides, fungicides, fumigants, nematocides, rodenticides, avicides, plant growth regulators, defoliants, desiccants, antimicrobials, and algicides. Note: In California, adjuvants also must be registered as pesticides.

Pesticide application warning sign: A sign identifying the location, time and identity of a pesticide (including product name, manufacturer's name and the U.S. EPA's product registration number) that will be applied on a schoolsite. Signs must be posted 24 hours before a pesticide application and 72 hours afterward.

Pheromone: A substance released by one organism that modifies the behavior of another of the same species. Synthetic pheromones are used in traps and lures as control or monitoring devices for some insect pests.

Physical control: Habitat alteration or changes in physical structure to reduce pest populations or their activity.

Phytotoxic: Causing injury or death to plants or portions of plants.

Population: A group of the same organisms living in a defined area.

Posting: The act of placing pesticide application warning signs in the location of a future pesticide application.

Prevention: The act of forestalling pest problems by taking actions such as sanitation.

Pyrethrins: Botanical insecticides, known collectively as pyrethrum, extracted from chrysanthemums, having quick knockdown and short residual insecticidal effects.

Pyrethroid: Any of the various synthetic insecticidal compounds that are related to the pyrethrins.

Reduced-risk pesticide: a pesticides which: (1) reduce pesticide risks to human health; (2) reduce pesticide risks to non-target organisms; (3) reduce the potential for contamination of valued, environmental resources, or (4) broaden adoption of IPM or makes it more effective.

Repellent: Materials that keep pests away from plants or animals in need of protection, e.g. to protect humans from mosquitoes.

Residual pesticide: A pesticide that continues to be actively pesticidal on a treated surface or area for an extended time period after application.

Restricted use pesticide: A pesticide that can be sold to or used by only certified applicators.

Rodenticide: A pesticide used to control mice, rats, gophers and other rodents.

Runway: A path that rats and mice use to move to and from their burrows or nests. Runways usually follow along the base of a wall, building foundation or fence line.

Sanitation: Measures that promote cleanliness and pest-free surroundings. In pest management, steps taken to remove the source of a pest's food or harborage.

Sanitizer: A chemical that reduces, but does not necessarily eliminate, microorganisms from the inanimate environment to levels considered safe as determined by public health codes or regulations.

School district designee: As defined by the Healthy Schools Act, "the individual identified by the school district to carry out the requirements of this article at the school- site." This person may also be called the IPM Coordinator.

Schoolsite: As defined by the Healthy Schools Act, "any facility used as a child day care facility, or for kindergarten, elementary, or secondary school purposes.

The term includes the buildings or structures, playgrounds, athletic fields, vehicles, or any other area of property visited or used by pupils. "School- site" does not include any postsecondary educational facility attended by secondary pupils or private kindergarten, elementary, or secondary school facilities."

Scouting: Planned, routine monitoring for the purpose of detecting pests or pest damage.

Self-contained bait or trap: Tamper-and child-resistant bait stations for rodents, general pests, or termites.

Spot treatment: Treatment of localized or restricted patches within an area not to exceed two feet square.

Sticky trap: Traps containing a sticky substance that holds insects so they can be counted.

Teratogen: A substance or agent capable of producing or inducing functional deviations or developmental anomalies not heritable, in or on an animal embryo or fetus.

Thatch: An accumulation of partially decomposed dead stems, roots, rhizomes or leaves on the soil surface below the green top growth of turf.

Toxicity: The degree to which a material (such as a pesticide) is poisonous to an organism; the ability of a material to cause harmful, acute, delayed or allergic effects.

Transect: A sample area of vegetation usually in the form of a long continuous strip.

Vertebrate: An animal with a spinal column (backbone).

Volatile: Describing the quality in which a substance, usually a liquid, evaporates at ordinary temperatures if exposed to the air.