



## WORKING WITH NATURE TO REDUCE RISKS

**PESTICIDES ARE TOXIC BY DESIGN**, since they must control pests. But effective pest management need not always rely on chemicals that may be harmful if misused. 🌱🌱 Whenever possible, DPR seeks to reduce the use of high-risk chemicals. The Department encourages the use of pest management strategies that are environmentally sound and offer less risk. Many of our strategies involve IPM – integrated pest management. 🌱🌱 IPM works with nature to create an environment where beneficial life flourishes while pests find it difficult to survive. For example, IPM tactics include hand weeding, trash removal, and trapping insects. 🌱🌱 The Department supports IPM through a variety of policies and programs. We encourage IPM practices in schools and other sensitive environments, provide financial support for research to advance IPM knowledge, and publicly recognize groups that make meaningful contributions to the adoption of IPM.



### **IPM Innovators honored**

DPR encourages IPM with annual awards for smart and safe pest management. "IPM Innovator" awards honor urban and agricultural organizations for reduced-risk solutions to pest problems, and for sharing that knowledge within their business communities. DPR presented its seventh annual "IPM Innovator" awards to eight recipients in November 2000.

### Protecting kids at school

*Schools traditionally have used pesticides – to control weeds on the playground, insects in the cafeteria, and rodents in classrooms and crawl spaces. But in recent years, parents and school officials have become concerned about the potential effects of pesticides on school children. DPR's goal is safe school pest control – without pesticides, when possible.*

As part of its Children's Health Initiative, the Davis Administration earmarked about \$600,000 in fiscal 2000-01 for the Department to develop voluntary school IPM programs. DPR will prepare an IPM guidebook, conduct regional and state IPM workshops, and create an IPM advisory group of key school organizations.

DPR supported Assemblyman Kevin Shelley's Healthy Schools Act of 2000. This law complements the Administration's school IPM efforts. DPR already provides some school IPM information on its Web site, and will expand online resources under the law. Among other provisions, the law requires schools to post notices before and after pesticide applications and send parents an annual list of pesticides that may be used at school.

More than \$1.3 MILLION IN DPR  
GRANTS WILL BE AWARDED IN 2001.



DPR has awarded more than \$320,000 in grants for IPM programs in schools for IPM guidebooks, training videos and record-keeping systems.

In October, the Department also awarded a two-year, \$120,000 grant to establish an environmental education program in the San Francisco Bay Area, with funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



Grants support safer pest management

*From urban lawns to farm fields, Californians need to adopt safer, non-toxic pest management methods. The Department supports the search for effective IPM solutions through its grant programs. Some DPR grants support basic research, others sponsor demonstration projects, and the most successful may graduate to large-scale partnership projects with the Department.*

In January, the Department awarded more than \$588,000 in Pest Management Grants to support 19 environmentally-friendly projects. One grant funds a “Kids in Gardens” project that will introduce classroom lessons on preventing pesticide runoff into streams and rivers. Another will focus on helping farmers work in harmony with their residential neighbors.

The Department expects to award another \$1.3 million in grants early in 2001 with funding from the Legislature. Smaller-scale Pest Management projects that prove successful may be expanded into industry- or statewide projects funded by Pest Management Alliance grants.

In March 2000, the Department awarded \$780,000 to fund nine large-scale Alliance projects. Recipients work directly with DPR staff to bring reduced-risk pest management and IPM into widespread use. Individual grants ranged up to \$100,000 and included projects to stop the spread of red imported fire ants; reduce pesticide use in almonds, walnuts, beets, wine grapes, treefruit, and poultry production; and develop a model IPM program for schools.



## F A C T S



Current Pest Management Grants support projects that:

- seek alternatives for strawberry and tomato growers who now rely on the fumigant methyl bromide;
- explore the use of tiny, stingless wasps to control a major fruit pest without the use of harsh pesticides;
- encourage vineyards to establish comprehensive IPM programs that are less pesticide-intensive, and
- protect ground and surface water from pesticide runoff.