

Coastal Bend College Integrated Pest Management Plan

Introduction:

Coastal Bend College (CBC) currently uses this Integrated Pest Management Plan for all CBC buildings and grounds managed by the college. The plan outlines procedures to be followed to protect the health and safety of faculty, staff, students and visitors from pest and pesticide hazards. The plan is designed to reduce our use of chemical pesticides. This plan will outline the fundamental aspects of CBC's IPM strategy for all locations outside of buildings.

Objectives of this IPM plan include:

- Elimination of significant threats caused by pests to the health and safety of faculty, staff, students and visitors.
- Prevention of loss or damage to structures or property by pests.
- Protection of environmental quality inside and outside buildings.

General IPM Strategies:

Pest management strategies may include education, exclusion, sanitation, maintenance, biological and mechanical controls, and pre-approved, site-appropriate pesticides.

An Integrated Pest Management decision at CBC shall consist of the following steps:

1. Identify pest species.
2. Estimate pest populations and compare to established action thresholds.
3. Select the appropriate management tactics based on current on-site information.
4. Assess effectiveness of pest management.
5. Keep appropriate records.

Decisions concerning whether or not pesticides should be applied in a given situation will be based on a review of all available options. Efforts will be made to avoid the use of pesticides by adequate pest proofing of facilities, good sanitation practices, selection of pest-resistant plant materials, and appropriate horticultural practices.

When it is determined that a pesticide must be used in order to meet pest management objectives, the least-hazardous material, adequate for the job, will be chosen.

Coastal Bend College Staff Roles

CBC administration will provide support to assist the Director of Physical Plant & Facilities in maintaining an IPM program that relies on minimal pesticide use. Such support will include efforts to promptly address any structural, horticultural, or sanitation changes recommended by the Director to reduce or prevent pest problems.

Furthermore, CBC administration will assist the Director of Physical Plant & Facilities in developing and delivering materials and programs for faculty, staff, students and visitors to educate them about the importance of good sanitation and pest control.

The Physical Plant & Facilities director is responsible for ensuring staff compliance with the IPM policy and plan.

Licensing and Training:

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) regulates and licenses individuals who apply pesticides. The TDA allows for pesticide applicators to supervise applications by non-license holders, and CBC contracts with Terminix to perform pesticide applications at all CBC locations. Complying with State of Texas standards, all Terminix employees who apply pesticides go through rigorous training and education to become State Licensed Noncommercial Political Pesticide Applicators.

IPM Basics:

Acceptable pest levels:

This IPM plan contends that wiping out an entire pest population is often impossible, and the attempt can be expensive and environmentally unsafe. At CBC, the goal is to keep these pests in check using a combination of methods, with pesticides being our last resort.

Preventive cultural practices:

The first line of defense against pests is selecting plant varieties best for local growing conditions, maintaining healthy landscapes, plant quarantine, and 'cultural techniques' such as plant sanitation. CBC will attempt to quickly identify and treat plant diseases before any outbreaks are able to spread.

Monitoring:

Regular observation is the cornerstone of IPM. Observation is performed in the following ways:

- 1) Inspection: The Coastal Bend College Physical Plant & Facilities Department staff visually inspect the plant life around campus on a daily basis as they come in contact with it. All maintenance staff are trained on what to look for and how to identify the presence of pests.
- 2) Service: Terminix services 4 CBC campus buildings each week. Other Buildings are services by Terminix as required and are kept on a rotating cycle, with all CBC campus building usually being serviced within a two-month time frame. As a result, the campus is consistently being monitored by Terminix and is expeditiously made aware of new pests and outbreaks in our area to lookout for. Targeted Pest: General Pest. Standard Covered Pest Includes: cockroaches, mice, rats, silverfish, "house" ants*, centipedes, millipedes, earwigs, house crickets and paper wasps.

Mechanical controls:

Should a pest reach an unacceptable level, physical and mechanical control methods will be considered as the primary options. The Coastal Bend College Physical Plant & Facilities Department staff are able to

identify problem weed species and remove them by hand or with tools. This helps ensure that our landscape environment stays clean and free of the majority of weeds.

Biological controls:

Natural biological processes and predatory organisms can provide control with minimal environmental impact and often for lower cost. The primary focus for CBC is to promote the existence of predatory insect populations that may help control pest populations. We promote these predatory insect populations by forbidding the use of pesticides containing neonicotinoids.

Responsible Pesticide Use:

Pesticides:

The Coastal Bend College Physical Plant & Facilities Department 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” or Red List pesticides will be used. CBC is committed to protecting pollinators, and therefore mandates there will be no use of Neonicotinoids on any property owned by CBC.

Synthetic pesticides are used as required and only at specific times in a pest’s life cycle. When possible, CBC Physical Plant & Facilities staff use pesticide groups that are derived from plants or naturally occurring substances (*e.g.* pyrethrum, insect hormone analogues, or insect growth regulations).

Surfactants will be used to help maximize the effectiveness of each appropriate pesticide treatment and to minimize the necessity of retreatment. The CBC Physical Plant & Facilities staff will primarily rely on spot treatment of pesticides. Broadcast treatments will only be used when infestation reaches extreme levels. CBC Physical Plant & Facilities staff will exclusively use low-volume spray equipment to reduce overall pesticide use and to minimize environmental impact.

Pest Management Goals:

- Identify, control and manage existing pests & weeds on CBC property.
- Prevent pest interference within the student-learning environment.
- Eliminate possible injury to students, staff, faculty, visitors and all other facility occupants.
- Preserve the integrity of university facilities, buildings and structures.
- Provide a safe environment for recreational and athletic field and area usage.
- Use the least toxic chemical treatment options possible with preference to organic treatments.