

# IMPACT

University of Idaho  
Extension

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## Integrated Pest Management in Washington County

### *The Situation*

There is growing interest among government agencies and non-profit organizations in promoting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in both agriculture and urban settings. Goals include protection of native pollinators for agriculture, reduced pesticide application, and use of beneficial insects to help manage pests and weeds.

To increase the public's understanding and acceptance of IPM techniques, additional instruction and alternative educational methods are required.

### *Our Response*

The Washington County Extension Office has increased the number of IPM presentations to homeowners, professionals, Master Gardener volunteers, and youth. These presentations include IPM principles, pest identification and life cycles, beneficial organisms, and examples of sustainable IPM practices. IPM awareness has also been relayed to the public through articles in the Washington County Extension Newsletter.

As a teaching example, the Washington County Extension Office established a demonstration "pollinator and insect refuge" garden. The garden is intended as an instructional example for Master Gardener volunteers and for 4-H youth. However, because the garden is prominently located outside of the Extension Office, it receives interest from casual public visitation. The garden includes interpretive signs, labels, and publications.

In addition, Washington and Canyon County Extension educators conducted a 2008 Treasure Valley survey for a beneficial wasp that controls Cereal Leaf Beetle. The project goal was to describe the geographic spread of this beneficial wasp and thereby help growers better manage Cereal Leaf Beetle with minimal chemical control.



*Extension Office pollinator and insect refuge demonstration garden.*

### *Program Outcomes*

Over the last three seasons, IPM presentations have been given to 15 Master Gardener volunteers, 110 growers (or pest control professionals) for pesticide recertification credits, 243 youth, and numerous homeowners. Additionally, 8 National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) professionals received IPM instruction for their required pest management certification. These NRCS employees now have

training they can use to assist growers in the adoption of IPM practices.

Insect educational materials and curriculum, including the importance of pollinators and beneficial insects, were prepared for youth. These materials were presented at the weekly Weiser, Idaho and Annex, Oregon After School Programs.

The Extension Office demonstration garden continues to be used for public awareness and appreciation of natural pollinator insects and beneficial insects.

The 2008 beneficial wasp survey did not reveal a wasp population outside the Parma, Idaho area. However, cooperating growers did receive education on Cereal Leaf Beetle IPM and instruction on how to protect the beneficial wasp once it becomes established. The Idaho State Dept. of Agriculture will also use the survey information for possible beneficial wasp releases in the future.

### **The Future**

The Extension Office will continue to instruct homeowners and growers on IPM techniques through presentations, articles, or personal conversation. Education of youth will continue through summer camps, After School Programs, and Natural Resource Days.

To better encourage and assist growers with IPM choices and alternatives, UI Extension Educators and specialists are collaborating with the NRCS to develop an IPM planner for the Idaho OnePlan website. The planner will include educational resources and specific crop IPM practices a grower can use. Growers will be able to explore and compare a number of IPM techniques with the planner that may be useful on their operation.

### **Cooperators**

- Steven J. Reddy, Extension Educator, University of Idaho Extension—Washington County
- Ronda Hirnyck, Extension Educator, University of Idaho Extension, Pesticide Program Coordinator
- Jerry Neufeld, Extension Educator, University of Idaho Extension—Canyon County

## ***For More Information***

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