

LOWER SAUCON TOWNSHIP

PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY

ORGANIC PEST MANAGEMENT

&

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

All pesticides are toxic to some degree and the widespread use of pesticides is both a major environmental problem and a public health issue. Federal regulation of pesticides is no guarantee of safety. Lower Saucon Township recognizes that the use of pesticides may have profound effects upon indigenous plants, surface water, and ground water, as well as unintended effects upon people, birds, and other animals in the vicinity of treated areas. Lower Saucon Township recognizes that all citizens, particularly children, have a right to protection from exposure to hazardous chemicals and pesticides. The Township recognizes that it is in the best interest of public health to reduce and/or eliminate the use of pesticides on Township-owned lands; to encourage reduction and elimination of pesticide use on private property; and to introduce cultural and management practices to prevent, and when necessary, address pest problems on Township-owned land.

It is the policy of Lower Saucon Township to focus on long-term pest prevention and give non-chemical methods first consideration when selecting treatment strategies. The full range of alternatives, including no action, will be considered first. IF chemicals are needed to initially control a pest, first, the least toxic material will be chosen and second, non-pesticide techniques will be established to mitigate the pests, if the pest should reoccur.

In consideration of the hazards involved in the use of chemical pesticides, Lower Saucon Township deems it prudent to employ pest control strategies which do not jeopardize human health, the environment, and non-target organisms. To this end, Lower Saucon Township has adopted a Pest Management Policy which places first priority on prevention of pest problems and uses a variety of non-toxic alternatives in combination with commonsense practices to control or eliminate pest problems. The goal of this Policy is to eliminate the use of certain chemical pesticides on all Township properties, either by Township employees or contractors, and to encourage residents to employ similar pesticide elimination methods.

THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPAL

The potential risks of exposure to toxic chemical pesticides are not yet fully understood; however, there is growing scientific evidence of a link between the use of chemical pesticides and human health problems, including cancer and neurological disease and endocrine disruption. In view of this mounting evidence and the degradation of natural resources and the environment associated with pesticide contamination, scientists, lawyers, policymakers, and environmentalists have developed what has become known as the Precautionary Principle. It states that when an activity raises threats of harm to the environment or human health, precautionary measures should be taken even if specific cause-and-effect relationships are not yet fully established. This Policy for Lower Saucon Township embraces this principle.

DEFINITIONS

Whenever used in this Policy, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below:

- A. Antimicrobial pesticides are pesticides, such as disinfectants and sanitizers, 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.

- B. Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) – A naturally occurring microorganism that produces a toxin that only kills organisms with alkaline stomachs, namely insect larvae.
- C. Carbamates are compounds which inhibit cholinesterase.
- D. Cholinesterase is an enzyme that is found in blood plasma.
- E. Contract is a binding written agreement, including but not limited to a contract, permit, license or lease between a person, firm, corporation or other entity, including a governmental entity, and Lower Saucon Township which grants a right to use or occupy property of the Township or which provides pest management services.
- F. Contractor – an individual or individuals who are not Township personnel and are hired/contracted to perform specific services on municipally owned or controlled land.
- G. Department is any agency or department of Lower Saucon Township. Department does not include the Northampton County Vector Control Division or any other local, state, or federal agency.
- H. Feasible means capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, social, and technological factors.
- I. FIFRA refers to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.
- J. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a decision-making process for managing pests using monitoring to determine pest-caused injury levels and combining biological control, cultural practices, mechanical and physical tools, and chemicals to minimize pesticide usage. The method uses extensive knowledge about pests, such as infestation thresholds, life histories, environmental requirements, and natural enemies to complement and facilitate biological and other natural control of pests. The method uses the least hazardous pesticides only as a last resort for controlling pests.
- K. Organic Pest Management is a management strategy that focuses on long-term prevention or suppression of pest problems by systematically eliminating life support systems or conditions required by unwanted pests in indoor and outdoor environments. Organic Pest Management (OPM) strives first and foremost to prevent pest problems by using natural, organic horticultural and maintenance practices. OPM shall incorporate the principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in its program when deemed necessary by the Pest Management Coordinator. It also incorporates regular maintenance and cultural practices that promote the health of plants in the case of outdoor management. OPM dictates that chemical controls (pesticides) be used only as a last resort. Pesticides are defined by United States Code, Title 7, Chapter 6, Subchapter II, Section 136 and shall include herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, rodenticides and any other toxic chemicals used to kill pests.
- L. Organophosphates are compounds which inhibit cholinesterase.
- M. Pests are considered undesirable terrestrial or aquatic plants, insects, fungi, bacteria, virus, nematodes, rodents, birds, animals, or other micro-organisms (except viruses, bacteria or other micro-organisms on or in living persons or other living animals) declared to be a pest under federal or state laws. Common examples in turf grass and the landscape can be, but are

not limited to: crabgrass, knotweed, poison ivy, chinch bugs, grubs, and a variety of plant pathogens.

- N. Pest Management Coordinator is the person designated by the Lower Saucon Township Council to implement and oversee the Township's Pest Management Policy.
- O. Pesticide is any substance, or mixture of substances which is intended to be used for defoliating plants, regulating plant growth, or for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest, which may infest or be detrimental to vegetation, man, animals, or households, or be present in any agricultural or nonagricultural environment. Pesticide for purposes of this Policy does not include antimicrobial agents.
- P. Pesticide Applicator – Township personnel or a contractor who has received specific written authorization from the Pest Management Coordinator to apply pesticides on municipally owned or controlled lands.
- Q. Posting is to place signs as identified in this Policy to inform employees and the public of pesticide use at a given site.
- R. Signal Words are the words used on a pesticide label--Danger, Warning, Caution--to indicate level of toxicity.
- S. Toxicity Category I Pesticide is any pesticide product that meets United States Environmental Protection Agency criteria for Toxicity Category I under Section 156.10 of Part 156 of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
- T. Toxicity Category II Pesticide is any pesticide product that meets United States Environmental Protection Agency criteria for Toxicity Category II under Section 156.10 of Part 156 of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

COMPONENTS OF THE ORGANIC PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY

All projects which require the use of pest control procedures should participate in the OPM Program. The Pest Management Coordinator or other designee should identify types and quantities of pesticides currently in use, and create a phase-out schedule for prohibited pesticides. The following are general principles for implementing the Organic Pest Management Policy:

- A. The key element in an outdoor organic program is the establishment and maintenance of healthy soil. Essential practices should include periodic soil testing and the addition of necessary nutrients, organic soil building materials and soil microbes.
- B. Select and/or replace plantings (including grasses, shrubs and trees) using criteria of hardiness, drought resistance and easy maintenance.
- C. Modify outdoor management practices including, but not limited to, watering, mulching, pruning, scouting, and observation.
- D. Modify indoor management practices including, but not limited to, sanitation, waste management, and food storage.

- E. Use physical controls such as hand weeding, traps, and barriers.
- F. Use biological controls (introducing or enhancing pests' natural enemies, such as providing bat houses in large open areas to promote habitats for local bat populations).
- G. Determine the most effective treatment time, based on pest biology and other variables, such as weather and local conditions.
- H. Eliminate pest habitats and conditions supportive of pest propagation.

COMPONENTS OF THE INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an ecologically sound approach to suppressing and eliminating pest populations. IPM involves a decision-making process for managing pests that uses monitoring (to determine pest injury levels) and combines biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools to minimize health, environmental, and financial risks. The method uses extensive knowledge about pests, such as infestation thresholds, life histories, environmental requirements, and natural enemies to complement and facilitate biological and other natural control of pests. IPM uses site-specific information about pest biology and behavior, environmental conditions and the dynamics of human characteristics and activities to prevent and control pests. The method uses the least toxic synthetic pesticides only as a last resort.

The IPM Program shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- A. Identify staff member(s) and contractors responsible for program implementation.
- B. Acquaint Township workers and contractors with the OPM and IPM approaches and new pest management strategies, as they are established.
- C. Inform the public of the Township's effort to reduce pesticide use.
- D. Respond to questions about the Township's pest management program and practices.
- E. Conduct ongoing educational programs, where appropriate.
- F. Maintain records and evaluate program effectiveness.
- G. Develop and maintain the Approved List of pesticides.

DESIGNATION OF INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR:

The Township Council will designate the Township Manager or his designee as the Pest Management Coordinator. The Pest Management Coordinator will be primarily responsible for implementing the Pest Management Policy and coordinating efforts to adopt OPM and IPM techniques. The Pest Management Coordinator will communicate goals and guidelines to the Township Council, staff, personnel, and contractors. The Pest Management Coordinator will provide staff training, track pesticide use and ensure that related information is available to the public. The Pest Management Coordinator will, at the discretion of the Township Council, present an annual report to the Township Council evaluating the progress of the Pest Management Program.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF PEST MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR, STAFF, ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL, AND PESTICIDE APPLICATORS

Everyone who works with or is potentially exposed to hazardous materials will receive training in Organic and Integrated Pest Management, Hazard Communication Standards and the safe use of those hazardous materials in their workplace by their administrator/supervisor or designee. Whenever a new pesticide is introduced, additional training will be provided, prior to the first initial use. In addition, regular safety meetings will be used to review the information presented in the initial training.

Education and training of appointed personnel is critical to the success of the Pest Management Program. Staff, custodial staff, and pest managers will be educated in the least toxic OPM and IPM policies and procedures. Understanding the objectives of the program is vital to its successful implementation. The objectives will be reviewed periodically and updated as necessary. No pesticides may be used at Township sites, except in accordance with the Township's printed Pest Management Policy.

- A. Education can include formal classroom training and informal meetings for those employees responsible for providing pest control.
- B. Provide continuing personnel training in pest and vegetation management concepts and methods. Assistance may be provided by Penn State Cooperative Extensions or other qualified persons.
- C. Modify job descriptions to assure that training and educational requirements for the applicator personnel comply with State regulations pertaining to the control of vegetation and pests and the use of pesticides.
- D. Review plans and specifications to enhance the use of OPM and IPM procedures and decisions for the planning for modification / repair / replacement / construction / restoration of new buildings, landscapes, properties that the Township has acquired interest in, roads, and drainage structures/systems with the objective of minimizing pest problems.

CONTRACTS AND EASEMENTS

- A. When the Township enters into a new contract or amends an existing contract to extend the term of the contract for more than six months beyond the current term and any optional extension periods, the contract shall require compliance with the provisions of this Policy including those relating to pesticide restrictions, record keeping, and reporting.
- B. A contractor, or department of Lower Saucon Township on behalf of a contractor, may apply for exemptions authorized under this Policy.
- C. When the Township enters into a new lease in which the Township is occupying or using property not owned by the Township, the Township shall use reasonable efforts to negotiate the use of OPM and IPM practices as part of that lease.
- D. In current leases in which the Township is occupying or using property not owned by the Township, the Township shall encourage the use of OPM and IPM practices whenever practical.

- E. When the Township is granted an easement, the maintenance of the easement shall be in compliance with this Policy if consistent with the terms of the easement.
- F. A process, which incorporates a request for qualifications, shall be used in the selection of all contractors for pest management services and shall be in compliance with Township contracting policies and state law. The Pest Management Coordinator may participate in the process. All contractors applying for pest management services shall submit a Pest Management Plan, which outlines how they will comply with this Policy. The Plan shall give preference to prevention and other non-pesticide or least toxic methods of pest control.

APPLICATIONS AND GUIDELINES

Only persons receiving specific written authorization from the Pest Management Coordinator as a Pesticide Applicator will be permitted to bring or use pesticides on Township property. Use of pesticides by pesticide applicators is limited to those products on the Approved Use or Limited Use Product list. Pesticide applicators must follow regulations and label precautions/instructions on proper application; spill response; cleaning and calibration of equipment; and storage and disposal.

Applicators will have training in OPM and IPM and must comply with the regulations of this Policy. Prior to any application of a pesticide, all applicators must complete and sign a form furnished by the Township that the applicator has read and understands the instructions and warning on the particular pesticide that they are using and that the applicator will comply with this Policy.

PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT – INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

- A. The Pest Management Coordinator shall oversee and coordinate implementation of the Pest Management Program.
- B. Township employees, their designee and/or contractors shall implement the IPM Program consistent with the IPM practices outlined below. Where feasible, consideration should be given to a range of potential treatments for the pest problem and employ non-pesticide management tactics first (OPM), consider the use of chemicals only as a last resort, and select and use chemicals in accordance with the provisions of this Policy. The IPM practices shall include ways to:
 - 1. Monitor pests to determine pest population size, occurrence, and natural enemy population, if present. Identify decisions and practices that could affect pest populations. Keep records of monitoring results.
 - 2. Set treatment levels for each pest at each site based on how much biological, aesthetic, or economic damage the site can tolerate.
 - 3. Determine the most effective treatment time, based on pest biology and other variables, such as weather, seasonal changes in wildlife use, and local conditions. Pesticides shall not be applied when wind speeds are greater than 10 mph, when relative humidity is low, when temperature inversions are likely or when temperatures are above 80 degrees Fahrenheit.
 - 4. Design construction and building remodels to reduce or eliminate pest habitats and improve efficiency in facility and landscape maintenance and sanitation.

5. Reduce pest incidences by modifying management practices such as watering, mulching, fertilizer use, and pruning.
6. Modify pest ecosystems, including waste management and food storage, to reduce pest food, living space, and access.
7. Use physical controls such as hand-weeding, traps and barriers, heat and cold.
8. Use biological controls such as introducing or enhancing pests' natural enemies i.e., providing bat houses in large open areas to promote habitats for local bat populations.
9. When indoors, use baits or least toxic methods of pest control rather than sprays.
10. Monitor treatment to evaluate effectiveness.
11. Maintain records as set forth in this Policy.

METHODS AND PRODUCT SELECTION AND PRODUCT USE APPROVAL

It is the policy of Lower Saucon Township to use least-toxic IPM principles to manage pest populations. Except for pesticides granted an emergency exemption, the Township will not use any products on the banned use product list below. If it is determined that an EPA registered pesticide must be used, then the least-hazardous material shall be used.

Products will be divided into three classifications: Approved Use List, Limited Use List and Banned Use List. If the use of a material not on either the Approved Use List or the Limited Use List is deemed necessary, the Pest Management Coordinator may apply for an emergency exemption.

All pesticides shall be water-soluble; unless documentation is provided that a good-faith effort was made to find alternatives to a particular pesticide. The use of non water-soluble pesticides shall require the written authorization of the Pest Management Coordinator.

PESTICIDE USE

- A. The Pest Management Coordinator shall maintain a list of all pesticides that have been approved for use by the Township Council, along with any restrictions for such use. This list shall be referred to as the Approved Use Pest Management Products List. The Approved List shall include, but not be limited to:
- Pesticides contained in baits or traps for the purpose of rodent control.
 - Caulking agents and crack sealants.
 - Borates, silicates, and diatomaceous earth.
 - Soap based products including insecticidal soaps.
 - Natural products on the FIFRA's 25 (b) list (40 CFR part 152.25 (g) (I)).
 - Pesticides classified by the US EPA as exempt materials under 40CRF 152.25.

- Vinegar, corn gluten, milky spore disease, and single celled organisms including Bt.
- Pesticides of a character not requiring FIFRA regulation.
- EPA GRAS-generally recognized as safe products pursuant to federal EPA.
- Cryogenics, electronic products, heat, and lights.
- Biological controls, such as nematodes, parasites, wasps, lady bugs, praying mantis, and other biological controls including the introduction of natural predators and enhancing the environment of a pests natural enemies i.e., providing bat houses in large open areas to promote habitats for local bat populations.
- Microbial pesticides.
- Insect growth regulators.
- Physical barriers.

B. Limited Use Products

1. The Pest Management Coordinator may submit a written recommendation to the Township Council for approval, that a particular pesticide(s) not on the Approved List be approved for use for a specific and limited purpose. The request must be reviewed by the Township Council and signed by the Pest Management Coordinator. The Township Council may grant a limited use exemption upon a finding that the Pest Management Coordinator or pesticide applicator has:
 - a. Identified a compelling need to use the pesticide;
 - b. Made a good-faith effort to find alternatives to the particular pesticide;
 - c. Demonstrated that effective, economic alternatives to the particular pesticide do not exist for the particular use; and
 - d. Developed a reasonable plan for investigating alternatives to the banned pesticide during the exemption period. The limited-use product will be allowed to be used for a short and defined exemption period, not to exceed one year.
2. An exemption may be continued beyond the one-year period by filing a new request for exemption.
3. The Township Council shall have the discretion to revoke any exemption.

C. Emergency Use of Pesticides

1. A Township employee or contractor responsible for maintenance of a site or facility may apply to the Pest Management Coordinator for an emergency pesticide use exemption in the event that a pest outbreak poses an immediate threat to public health or may cause significant economic damage.

2. If the Pest Management Coordinator cannot respond to the application in a timely manner, the Assistant Manager may authorize the one-time emergency use of the required pesticide and provide notice of the emergency application to the Pest Management Coordinator in writing within 48 hours.
3. Posting of emergency use of pesticides shall be at the time of pesticide application and comply with all other posting requirements.
4. Reporting of the exemption and pesticide use will comply with all other notification and reporting requirements of this Policy.

D. Banned Use Products List:

The following high health-risk pest management products are completely banned from use on Lower Saucon Township property:

- Pesticides linked to cancer containing substances with any of the following classifications listed on the EPA's Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS):
 - Class A – Human Carcinogen
 - Class B – Probable Human Carcinogen
 - Class C – Possible Human Carcinogen
 - Known/Likely Human Carcinogen
 - Carcinogenic to Humans
 - Likely to be Carcinogenic to Humans
 - Suggestive Evidence of Carcinogenicity
 - Suggestive Evidence of Carcinogenic Potential
- Pesticides that cause birth defects, reproductive or developmental harm (identified by the U.S. E.P.A.).
- Pesticides classified as Toxicity Category I and Category II by the U.S. E.P.A.
- Foggers, bomb, fumigants or sprays that contain pesticides identified by the State of California as potentially hazardous to human health (as listed in Proposition 65).
- Pesticides classified by active ingredient as organophosphate type pesticides as identified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (Office of Pesticide Programs, document 735-F-99-14, May 1999), or Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.
- Pesticides containing carbamate-type chemicals.
- Any pesticide classified as a human carcinogen, probable human carcinogen or possible human carcinogen by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, under procedures established in "Proposed Guidelines for Carcinogen Risk Assessment," EPA/600/P-92/003C, April 1996, or equivalent documents.

- Any pesticide group officially designated by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection or by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as posing significant hazard to human health or the environment.

E. Banned Use Areas:

Except in the case of an emergency, no pesticides will be applied in the following parks where small children play:

- Town Hall Tot-Lot

NOTIFICATION OF PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS

A. Any Township department that uses or authorizes the use of a pesticide shall comply with the following posting procedures:

1. Signs shall be posted at least three days before application of the pesticide and remain posted at least four days after application, except for baits and emergency use of pesticides, which are posted at the time of treatment.
2. For buildings and/or landscaped areas adjacent to buildings, signs shall be posted at main entry points where the pesticide is applied.
3. For open areas, signs shall be posted in highly visible locations around the perimeter of the area where the pesticide is applied.
4. For vehicles used primarily by Township staff, signs shall be posted at areas where vehicles are obtained or posting information shall be given to the primary drivers.
5. Signs shall have a standard design that is easily recognizable by the public and workers.
6. Signs shall contain the following information:
 - a. Trade name and active ingredient of the pesticide product.
 - b. Target pest.
 - c. Date of posting.
 - d. Date(s) of anticipated pesticide use; the date(s) of actual pesticide use will be posted at the main entrance, park office, or designated site.
 - e. Signal word indicating the toxicity category of the pesticide product.
 - f. Date for re-entry of staff and the public to the area treated if applicable.
 - g. Name and contact number for the department responsible for the application.

B. Exemptions to Posting

1. Departments shall not be required to post signs in accordance with the requirements in this section in right-of-way locations and other areas that the general public does not use for recreational purposes.

- a. Each Township department that uses pesticides in such locations shall provide a public access telephone number for information about pesticide applications. The public access telephone number shall be posted in a prominent location at the Township building. Information provided shall include all the items in Section A.6 above.
2. Any pesticide granted an emergency exemption by the Pest Management Coordinator shall not be required to be posted prior to treatment. However, all other requirements for posting as set forth in this Policy shall be followed.
3. Any pesticide bait placed in a container or trap, or applied as a gel or paste in a crack or crevice shall not be required to post signs prior to treatment. Baits used indoors shall be posted in the vicinity of application. Baits used outdoors shall be posted in the main office, park office, or a designated site. Signs shall be posted according to the requirements as set forth in this Policy.
4. The Pest Management Coordinator may in his or her discretion grant necessary exemptions to the posting requirements.

PEST CONTROL AND RECORD KEEPING OF PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS

Lower Saucon Township shall maintain records of all pesticide applications to Township property at the Township Building for a period of four (4) years, and shall make the information available to the public, upon request.

All the information listed below will be documented on an official Pest Control Recommendation. Each application record shall include the following information:

- Name of the entity responsible.
- Specific site of the application.
- The target pest.
- The date the pesticide was used and re-entry period if applicable.
- Schedule, timing, and conditions.
- The name and active ingredient of the pesticide to be applied and EPA registration number.
- The pesticide signal word.

The Pest Management Coordinator, their designee, or the authorized applicator will prepare a follow up record to include:

- The effectiveness of the pesticide or management action.
- Prevention and other non-chemical methods of control used.
- If application was undertaken in a pest control emergency, provide explanation of circumstances of the emergency.

GENERAL EXEMPTIONS

- A. This Policy shall not apply to the use of any pesticide for the purpose of improving or maintaining water quality at any County or Municipally owned or operated drinking water treatment plants, wastewater treatment plants, reservoirs, and related collection, distribution, and treatment facilities.

- B. This Policy shall not apply to any use of pesticides on County or Township property by any department when performing pest management or pesticide activities authorized by state or federal laws or regulations.
- C. This Policy shall not apply to the use of pesticides by the Northampton County Vector Control Division.
- D. This Policy shall not apply to antimicrobial pesticides or pesticides used to control pests in or on living humans or animals.
- E. This Policy shall not apply to existing contracts except as provided in this Policy.

PESTICIDE PURCHASES

All pesticide products and pest control services that include pesticide applications shall comply with this Policy and be purchased only through written authorization of the Pest Management Coordinator. It shall be the goal of this policy that pesticides should only be purchased in quantities necessary to treat the pest problem. In no case should more than a year's worth of pesticide product be purchased in any one year; unless the available quantities in stock are insufficient to properly manage a certain situation and only after receiving written authorization of the Pest Management Coordinator.

NO CRIMINAL PENALTIES OR SANCTIONS

No person, or government official, board, commission, or agency shall be responsible for any criminal penalties for any violation of the Policy.

NO CIVIL LIABILITY FOR VIOLATIONS OF THIS POLICY

This Policy and the provisions are directory, and are intended to set forth goals and program elements for management of pests and pesticide use. This Policy is not intended to create a standard of civil liability for the acts or failure to act of the Township and its employees and contractors. No person, government official, board, commission, or agency shall be liable in any civil action or proceeding for damages for violation of any of the provisions of this Policy.

OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS

This Pest Management Policy shall not be interpreted or construed to permit the application or use of pesticides or other hazardous materials where such use or application is restricted by other applicable health, environmental, safety or fire codes, regulations or statutes.