



PESTICIDE INDUSTRY REGULATORY COUNCIL (PIRC)

Administered by the

Ontario Integrated Pest Management Association (OIPMA)

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PIRC / IPM-EHC CODE OF CONDUCT:

(last revised April 10, 2005)

Member in-house accredited PTP examiners and IPM agents and organizations will:

1. Agree to follow PIRC provided guidelines set out by Regulatory bodies and this IPM-EHC Code of Practice.
2. Support PIRC independent and affordable ongoing monitoring/auditing of the professional IPM small business industry who daily promote pesticide safety for the protection of the environment and human health.
3. Focus their business on adherence to Regulation 914, and support and promote the red tape free principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as defined by Health Canada consistent with its Action Plan for Urban Use Pesticides. Monitor at regular interval customers' property for pest infestation and maintain a log of observations. Provide relevant collected environmental health care monitoring data in support of a province wide monitoring network and database based on business activity, i.e., Mosquito Abatement, Emerald Ash Borer, Lawn Care, Pharaoh Ants, etc.
4. IPM is a decision making process that takes into consideration and uses all necessary technology and techniques to monitor, suppress, and control pests effectively, and economically. This, in an environmentally sound manner by IPM pest management professionals engaged in every certified field, i.e. agriculture, aquatic, structural, lawn care, and related horticultural activities to achieve healthy landscapes. The elements of IPM include: Identifying potential pests and pest organisms; monitoring pest populations; pest damage and environmental conditions; managing structural and ecosystems to prevent organisms from becoming pests; managing pest populations using strategies that combine biological, cultural, mechanical, behavioural and as necessary, prudent use of least risk chemical controls.
5. Use pesticides only after examination (monitoring) and diagnosing, and in combination with additional IPM horticultural measures or structural principles and practices. Not apply pesticides unnecessarily. Document pesticide usage and pesticide alternative strategies through IPM and agree to monitor and keep records of pesticide usage to aid in your reduction program for PIRC and its IPM-EHC council monitoring/auditing. Apply treatments that are properly timed to maximize effectiveness. Monitoring techniques will be used to discourage unnecessary treatments and to anticipate potential pest problems based on pest history in combination with local monitoring or the results of PIRC province-wide monitoring.
6. Implement effective staff pesticide safety and updating training program based on PIRC provided updates in regards to Regulatory and sustainable IPM Technology, and adherence to the IPM-EHC Code of Conduct. Encourage, educate and solicit the assistance of property owners and others in charge to follow optimum IPM principles, including cultural practices. Monitor the customer's premises and or property for pest identification at regular intervals and maintain a log of observations on the customer's premises and or property.
7. Offer a pesticide-free alternative to customers who choose not to use pesticides. Implement buffer zones (when necessary) when making applications to sensitive sites. Utilize spot treatment for the control of pests (i.e. insects and weeds). Blanket applications only used if warranted and following strict label directions. Determine the threshold to reduce unnecessary applications.
8. Focus lawn care business on promotion and implementation of cultural practices where possible i.e. using optimum soil depth and quality, suitable turf varieties, overseeding, proper mowing heights, watering, fertilizing, aeration and dethatching as components for maintaining healthy lawns and preventing pest problems.
9. Not sell programs based on numerous pesticide applications, but rather encourage programs based on Integrated Pest Management Environmental Health Care, (IPM-EHC), for turf and plants. Prepare all sites for proper application (i.e. removal of items from lawn, etc.). Not advertise more than two weed applications, prudently applied, as required, in any annual lawn care program. Support prohibition of telemarketing of pesticide services to the public between the months of November through February annually, unless an active client of the company serviced in the past 18 months and a history has been established.
10. Support that a certificate issued by the PIRC, (without exclusiveness), that confirms annual Regulatory and IPM Technology updating is recognized to meet the Framework re-certification criteria of the Standard for Pesticide Education, Training, and Certification in Canada by the MOE to waive rewriting every five years. Additionally, a one-day seminar attendance will be mandatory in order to obtain a PIRC verification letter of updating certificate prior to one's license renewal date. (This enhanced updating training far exceeds USA re-certification and is in accordance with 1995 government and MOE policy to eliminate red tape and assist small business.)