UNM-Taos Integrated Pest Management Policy

Revised - October 3, 2024

The UNM-Taos Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policy was created to provide a safe and ecological guideline to protect the environment and the unintended casualties of plants, animals and insects. The goal is to provide guidelines on ways we can be more conscientious in our practices to provide a better environment for everyone.

The IPM Policy shall apply to all pest control activities at UNM-Taos campus (Klauer and Rio Grande) including activities at public buildings, UNM-Taos owned related facilities and campus grounds. It is expected that all applications, to the extent possible, will include reasonable measures to protect the campus environment and its inhabitants whether they be plant, animal, insect or human.

UNM-Taos, in planning for and implementing its pest management program will:

- Assume that all pesticides (organic and conventional) are potentially harmful to the health of humans and the environment (ex. non-target species).
- Try to create long-term pest prevention measures, including using non-pesticide alternatives whenever possible.
- Work with UNM-Taos Facilities to create a plan that outlines pest control in these measures.
- Leave the building free natural areas of campus alone and free from any and all pest management.
- Ensure consistency and full compliance with federal, state and county regulatory requirements related to pest control.
- Contract with pest control companies that utilize the least-toxic pest control methods and make them familiar with our campus goals in regards to pest management.
- Promote public transparency with the UNM-Taos campus pest control plan and its goals.

Goals

The goals of this policy are to:

- Create awareness among the UNM-Taos community of IPM techniques and environmental stewardship.

- Work toward transitioning all campus properties to “green”/ least-toxic pest management.
- Reduce and/or eliminate pesticides that pose known significant biological health or environmental risks based on the best available information.
- Establish a program where pesticides categorized as having a reduced-risk to human and environmental health may be used on UNM-Taos Campus when alternatives have been attempted and are ineffective. If pesticides are used and stored on campus these will be documented in the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) information.

Treatments

Upon determining that treatment is necessary, the least-disruptive pest measures should be used. Treatments selected should be the least-hazardous to human health, the least-toxic to non-target organisms and the least-damaging to the general environment.

Prevention is the most effective pest management strategy. UNM-Taos will make use of strategies that reduce the preferred shelter, food, water or other items that draw pests and by using landscape design that is appropriate to the specific habitat, climate and maintenance the area will receive. When designing projects, we will consider the potential impacts of pollinators and pests and design the landscape to help divert pests and increase native pollinator use. UNM-Taos will also select plants and materials that encourages pest enemies and competitors and modify or remove pest habitats that are in proximity to buildings or areas.

UNM-Taos will continue to practice vegetation management including irrigation, mulching, fertilization, aeration, seeding, pruning and thinning. We will practice good pest management, trapping, proper food storage and use mechanical means to control pests whenever possible (mowing, weed-whacking, burning, weeding and/or hand-pulling of weeds).

Biological controls include the enhancement of natural predator populations to target pests keeping in mind that non-native organisms will need to be thoroughly evaluated prior to release and be consistent with county, state and federal regulation. Biological controls include: conservation of native pest predators as well as potential introduction of host-specific enemies that are non-invasive and thoroughly researched for use in our area.

Chemical control includes the application of reduced-risk pesticides to kill target pests and will be evaluated for safety and spread. Areas treated will be reviewed and evaluated to see if the treatment was effective. Pesticides will only be used as a final option in situations where other methods have either failed or the alternatives have been cost prohibitive.

Applications shall be performed by or under the supervision of a qualified applicator and will avoid direct exposure to any person, animal or property on adjacent areas. Treatments shall be

timed to target species at their most susceptible stage and, if possible, when there is the least amount of human interactions on campus. Care shall be observed to prevent damage to non-target plants, especially when applying a non-selective herbicide. In an effort to use the required pesticide to it's full potential and not risk having the application spread no pesticides shall be sprayed when winds are higher than 10 mile per hour, if it is raining or rain is expected within 2 days of the application, or when temperatures are too high or low for the pesticide to be effective.

Communication

The University will strive to place signage in the immediate vicinity of the application 24 hours in advance of an application until 72 hours following the application to notify individuals to avoid the area. The IPM Policy will also be posted on the UNM-Taos website and be linked on the UNM-Taos Bee Campus page.

Exceptions

In an effort to address emergency needs there will be exceptions to the rules above. An emergency need would be an application to protect human health (i.e. hantavirus/wasp nests directly above building entry) or against significant loss of assets (swarms destroying planted vegetation/termite nest in building walls). One-time exemption may be provided by the approval of the Facilities Manager or Chancellor of the branch campus.