

AN IPM PROGRAM FOR SITE ASSESSMENT FOR ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

FOR LANDSCAPE PEST MANAGERS

KEY POINTS

- A site assessment is an important first step when designing a program for a new site or property.
- The assessment includes a site map and an inventory of plants and their current health and pest condition.
- The information is used to design a site-specific program for pest problems and plant care.
- This approach is the foundation of a sound Integrated Pest Management program (IPM).

A site assessment provides background information. It allows the landscape pest manager to develop an IPM program that is tailored to the plants and the pests found on the site.

A sound IPM program entails a professional service delivered by a reliable, knowledgeable person. Educate the client on the services you offer and make the client part of the final decisions for the property.



The professional landscaper informs the client of a problem.



An assessment would help determine the cause of the trees dying.

THE PURPOSE OF A SITE ASSESSMENT

Under provincial legislation, a company holding a pesticide licence is required to use the principles of IPM when applying pesticides.

The initial site assessment provides the necessary information to build a schedule of visits to the property. Depending on the plant inventory, a sound IPM program may require 4 to 8 visits per year.

Focus on key plants on the property. These plants can be, for example, more prone to pest problems or more valuable to the client. Develop a long-term care plan that includes services such as mulching of shrub beds, top dressing with quality organic matter, timely pruning of shrubs and trees or replacement of the problem plants.

Designing an IPM program with a Site Assessment

INFORMATION TO COLLECT

1) Site map and plant inventory

Identify the plant species found in the landscape. Draw a site map and mark the location of the 'key plants', those that are most prone to pest problems.

2) Plant condition

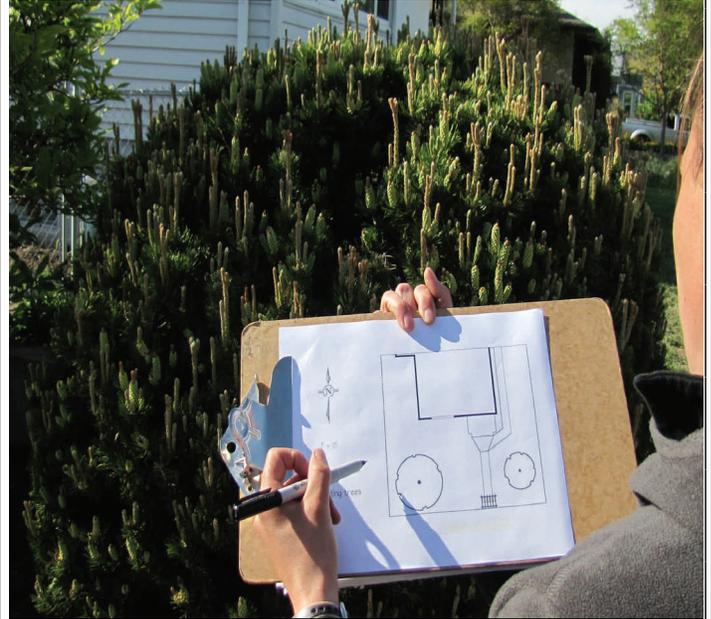
Inspect each plant for symptoms of pests or abnormal growth. Note the plants that require pruning or that show leaf chlorosis from nutrient deficiencies.

3) Use pattern

Understand the use of each area. Note potential concerns for neighbours, wildlife, or water bodies.

4) Soil condition

Record soil type, moisture levels, pH, etc.



BUILDING A PROGRAM

1) Identify key phenological events.

Plant development and seasonal weather help determine proper timing for visits and actions such as pruning, fertilizing, and pesticide applications.

2) Develop resources for staff.

Pest managers can build a binder with color pictures of key pests and diseases, the damage they cause, when they typically appear, and how to treat them.

3) Conduct staff training in the field.

Employees should be able to recognize the normal appearance of common landscape plants, as well as when plants appear "abnormal" or stressed.



Key ornamental plants and pests for the Southern Interior region

Plant genus	Examples of plants	Key pests	Other problems
<i>Acer</i>	Maples (Norway, red, Japanese)	Aphids, Powdery mildew	Nutrient deficiencies Water scorch
<i>Betula</i>	Birch (European white, rive)	Aphids, Powdery mildew	Water scorch Dieback of top branches
<i>Malus</i>	Apple (Crabapple, Fruiting apple)	Codling moth Apple scab, Powdery mildew	Nutrient deficiencies Lack of pruning
<i>Picea</i>	Spruces (Blue, Norway, white)	White pine weevil Adelgids, Spruce budworm	Nutrient deficiencies
<i>Prunus</i>	Ornamentals (sandcherry, chokecherry) Also fruit trees (cherry, peach, plum)	Peach tree borer, Leafrollers Brown rot, Powdery mildew	Nutrient deficiencies Lack of pruning