

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE FOR COMMERCIAL LAWN CARE ACCREDITATION

Commercial lawn care facilities accredited under the Plant Health Atlantic - IPM Accreditation Program must agree to abide by the following Standards of Practice:

1. To support the intent of the Plant Health Atlantic - IPM Accreditation Program and conduct all pest management within the principals of Integrated Pest Management.
2. To first and foremost consider the health of humans and the environment and adherence to all provincial, federal, and municipal laws having to do with pest control products and/or pest management practices.
3. To have a minimum of one fully certified IPM Turf Practitioner on staff, who is responsible for: coordinating the IPM program; developing a program for the continual education of company personnel; and participating in prescribed audits.
4. To never use a pest control product unnecessarily or without justification.
5. To apply pesticides only to properties where pest monitoring records indicate a need and in a manner compliant with established treatment thresholds (*See: Treatment Threshold Standards*).
6. To keep a record of the following information for each client's site under a pest management program: Property identification, total area of turf (M²) in the pest management program, pest(s) identified, monitoring method, pest numbers/unit area, date of any treatment, product used (PCP No.), product application rate (amount/M²), amount of mixed product applied (L), and calculated calibration of the equipment.
7. To foster conditions where non-pesticide management tools can be effectively utilized and pesticide use can be reduced.
8. To promote property improvement efforts and cultural practices such as using optimum soil depth and quality, suitable turf varieties, over-seeding, proper mowing heights, and proper fertilization, aeration and de-thatching as components for maintaining healthy turf and reducing pest problems.
9. To maintain and regularly calibrate application equipment and to keep records thereof.
10. To manage pest populations at acceptable levels using biological, physical, cultural, mechanical, and behavioural management tools preferentially.
11. To neither promote nor sell programs/packages based on numerous pesticide applications.
12. To strive to annually apply pesticides to not more than 40% (aggregate average) of the total property base under a pest management program.