

City of Morgan Hill

2023 Annual Report

Integrated Pest Management
for Facilities, Parks, Streets and
Public Open Space



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Integrated Pest Management Plan Overview

The goal of the City of Morgan Hill IPM Plan is to align city maintenance practices in public buildings, parks, landscaped grounds, public right of way and open space areas with the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to pest control.

The IPM Plan applies to all city facilities and all maintenance activities, and the Management Policy Statement of the plan defines it as a tool to assist the City of Morgan Hill to carry out pest management operations using Integrated Pest Management techniques in a manner to control pests effectively, and to minimize the use of pesticides. Per the plan, whenever feasible, non-toxic alternative pest control methods will be used and efforts will be made by the City to seek new technology, best management practices and the least toxic approaches to address all pest control issues. The Plan is available for the use of City employees for educating staff and the public about the City's commitment to, and implementation of, IPM practices.

Plan Requirements and Current Practices

The IPM Plan includes a Management Policy Statement, Implementation Responsibilities, Citywide IPM Requirements, Staff Training, Record Keeping and Annual Reports.

Currently, the City's Maintenance Manager has the responsibility to administer and manage the IPM plan and all regulatory reporting for work performed by City Staff. City managed contractors that perform pesticide applications are required to obtain the proper licensing, are required to report usage to any regulatory agencies per their permits, must submit pesticides used on City property for review and must abide by all rules listed in the City of Morgan Hill IPM Plan.

City staff currently performs weed abatement in parks, public rights of way (ROW), and utility roadways & pathways, while City managed contractors perform this same service on street medians, and facilities landscapes. Any pesticides utilized cannot contain a signal word of "Danger" or "Warning" on the label for routine maintenance, while pesticides with a signal word of "Caution" are allowed.

Although not required by State or Federal regulations, the City of Morgan Hill IPM Plan continues the requirement that City owned or maintained parks are posted for public

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knowledge a minimum of 3 days prior to a pesticide application, and the posting cannot be removed any earlier than 1 day after it is safe to re-enter the application area.

The City IPM Plan also defines that employees that will be applying pesticides be trained per the CA Department of Pesticide Regulations requirements, and that the IPM Administrator informs all City staff on an annual basis of the City's IPM Plan, restrictions on pesticide usage, and appropriate procedures for controlling pests. All City staff who apply pesticides have undergone training performed by Target Specialty Products and Pesticide Applicators Professional Association. City Staff will be notified via e-mail of the IPM requirements in the form of the current soft copy document and a list of bullet point items of the critical points of the plan required of staff that do not perform pesticide application as a part of their normal job duties.

Pest Problem Trends

There were several different challenges in 2023. The first challenge was the above average rainfall. This caused weed growth to also be above average so in some of the right away areas that we could typically just spray we also had to manually cut.

Another major challenge continues to be the elimination of glyphosate in City Parks. Though we have tested alternative products they have all been found to be ineffective. All park weed abatement continues to be done manually which is extremely time consuming and utilizes a lot of staff resources.

Another challenge has been tree diseases in select residential areas and along Butterfield Blvd. The aphids feed on the sap of the leaves and excrete honeydew, a sticky substance that eventually falls onto the sidewalk/pathways. This needs to be treated in the spring in order to prevent the aphids from feeding on the tree. Once the aphids have invested the tree there is not an effective treatment.

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2023 Usage Data – Performed by City of Morgan Hill Staff

The following table denotes the amount of pesticides used to treat our City ROW and Parks for calendar year 2023:

Pesticide	Streets			Pesticide	Parks						
	Amount	Unit	Acreage		Amount	Unit	Acreage				
Ranger Pro	56.5	gal	54	n/a	n/a	gal	n/a				
Dimension Ultra WP	4.88	gal									
Capstone	13.375	gal									
Gallery	3.53	Gal									

2024 IPM Plan Goals

For 2024 City staff will have West Coast Arborist do a test pilot of aphid treatment in a smaller residential section to determine the effectiveness of treatment.

An annual refresher training for staff will be completed in January 2024, including an overview of CA Department of Pesticide Regulations for employees who apply pesticides in the course of their duties, as well as training on forms for IPM Coordinators, and a copy of the current IPM plan will be sent to each employee.

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