

City of Morgan Hill

2024 Annual Report

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



City of Morgan Hill
Integrated Pest Management 2024 Annual Report

Table of Contents

Table of Contents 2

Integrated Pest Management Plan Overview 3

Plan Requirements and Current Practices 3

Pest Problem Trends 4

2024 Usage Data – Performed by City of Morgan Hill Staff..... 5

2025 IPM Plan Goals 6

End of Document 6

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

City of Morgan Hill

Integrated Pest Management 2024 Annual Report

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 2024. The first challenge was the above average rainfall amount which continued into May. This made our spring spraying of right ways not as effective and caused additional weed growth once the spraying was completed.

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. Galvan Park for example weeds were cut once a month from March through November.

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 year we contracted with West Coast Arborist (WCA) to treat 18 crape myrtle trees in a residential area as a pilot. WCA applied a soil injection around the tree and the treatment did work and prevented honeydew from being formed.

The final challenge we faced this fall was the wild boar(s) tearing up the turf at Jackson Park. Boars feed off of grubs and dig up the turf to get to the food source. Grubs unfortunately need to be treated as preventive measure to prevent them from hatching as once they are hatched it is extremely hard to get rid of them. A temporary fence had to be put up at Jackson Park to try and prevent further damage.

City of Morgan Hill
Integrated Pest Management 2024 Annual Report

2024 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 2024:

Pesticide	Streets			Pesticide	Parks		
	Amount	Unit	Acreage		Amount	Unit	Acreage
Ranger Pro	100	gal	106	n/a	n/a	gal	n/a
Dimension Ultra WP	9.69	gal					
Capstone	18.75	gal					
Gallery	6.55	Gal					
Clearcast	0.5	gal					

2025 IPM Plan Goals

For 2025 City staff will do the aphid treatment for trees inhouse. We will be purchasing the soil injection equipment to further expand the amount of trees we treat in the spring. This will also help to reduce the overall treatment cost. Staff will also look to preventively do grub treatment at Jackson Park in May and again the early fall to prevent turf damage. Staff will also continue to research effective glyphosate alternatives for our parks.

An annual refresher training for staff will be completed in January 2025, 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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