

• **Additional Information Sources:**

♦ *Cooperative Extension* —

Individuals can contact the Cooperative Extension or bring home and garden pests to them to be identified and be advised of recommended controls. Many Cooperative Extension offices have consumer horticulture specialists to confer with in learning about a particular pest.

♦ *Specialized garden centers* —

Many centers have trained staff for identifying pests and providing recommendations.

♦ *Main Libraries.*

♦ *Soil & Water Conservation Districts.*

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*Brochures in this series are available from the NYSDEC central office in Albany, NY, DEC regional offices, and county Cooperative Extension. Copies of the brochures will also be provided to Soil & Water Conservation Districts, main public libraries and certain other state and local offices. For a list of other brochures in this series contact the NYSDEC or its website, <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/>*

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DIVISION OF SOLID & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS  
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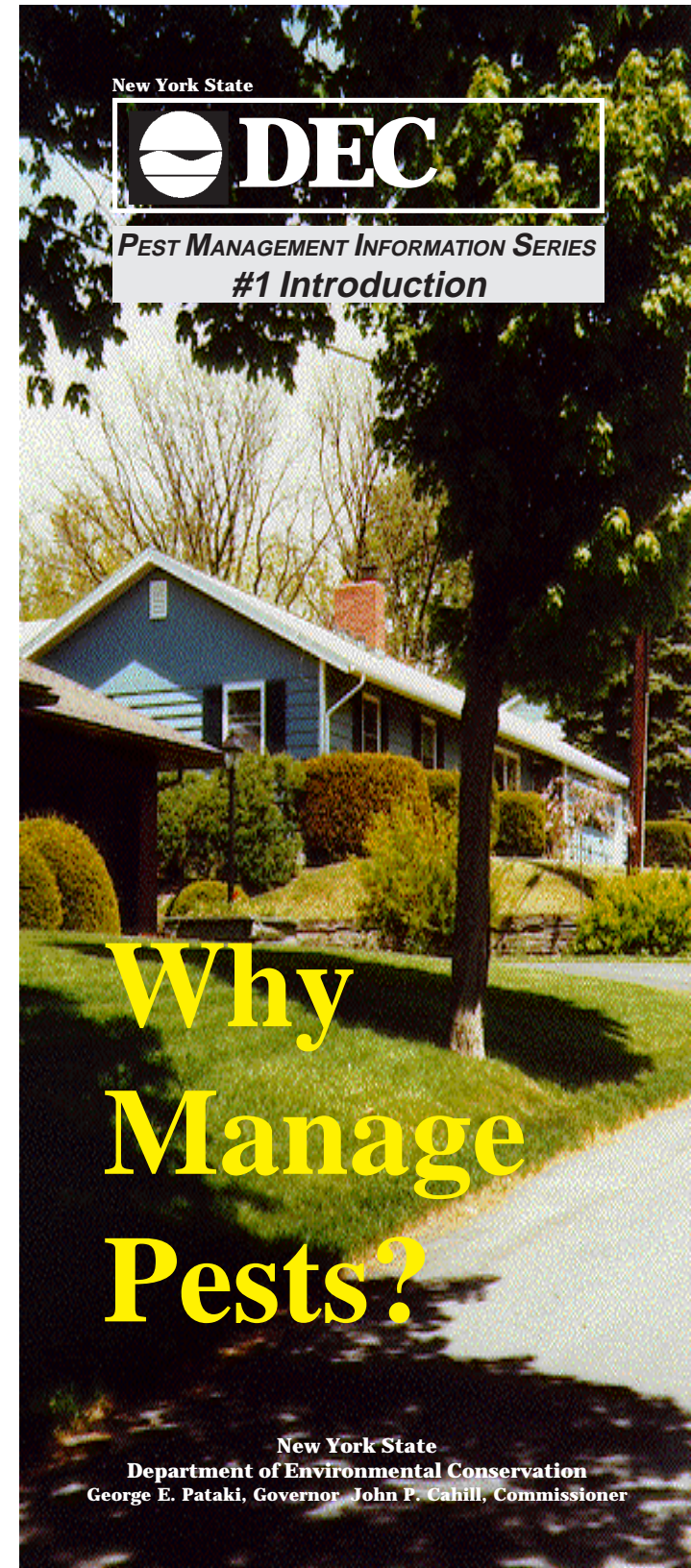
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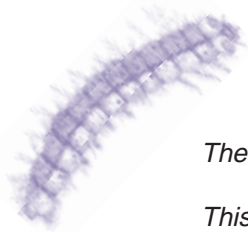


PEST MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SERIES  
#1 Introduction



# Why Manage Pests?

New York State  
Department of Environmental Conservation  
George E. Pataki, Governor John P. Cahill, Commissioner



# Why Manage Pests?

The goal of this PEST MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SERIES is to help residents and small businesses make informed decisions about methods to handle pest populations in and around their homes, apartments, lawns and properties. This introductory brochure is the first in the series, and discusses what pests are and why managing them is important.

## Q. What is a pest?

**A.** Pests can be a number of things, such as weeds, insects, rodents and less commonly thought of things such as fungus and bacteria. Generally, pests are living plants or organisms existing where they are not wanted, such as in our lawns, gardens and homes.

People have differing levels of ‘tolerance’ for other living things. For example, some people are not bothered by insects or weeds, but many people have experienced times when they become a problem and that is when they are pests. When insect or rodent populations increase in our homes lawns, gardens, and trees, as well as other living and working spaces, people may feel a need to reduce and control the pest population.



## Q. Why is pest management important?

**A.** There are many reasons why pest management can be important to your family and pets, and to your home or apartment and property. Proper pest management can reduce or preclude the following:

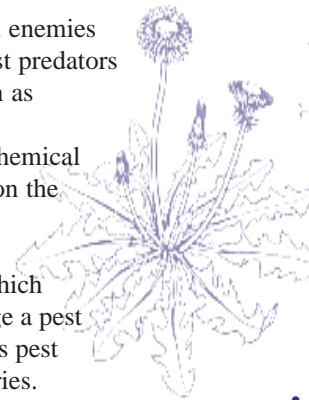
- Interior damage to your home or other structures which may result from certain types of pest infestations;
- Pest damage to landscaping, trees, flowering plants, shrubs, lawns and vegetable gardens;
- Human allergic reactions and disease due to certain pests;
- Damage to items in your home such as clothing and furniture;
- Pest contamination of stored food products; and
- Pest infestations of your pets and house plants.

## Q. How can pests be managed?

**A.** A range of methods are available to manage pests and help reduce or prevent their populations:

- **Cultural** — Making changes in the way people behave to influence pest populations, such as matters of sanitation (e.g. maintain a tidy home and yard, clean up spills and properly dispose of garbage).
- **Physical** — Utilizing “tools” such as screening, caulking, plastering, and traps.
- **Biological** — Using a pest’s natural enemies to reduce a pest population (e.g. pest predators such as spiders, and pathogens such as *Bacillus thuringiensis*).
- **Chemical** — Appropriately using chemical pesticides (e.g. follow instructions on the manufacturer’s label).

Understanding these options and which method may work best for you to manage a pest population is one of the objectives of this pest management informational brochure series. Integrated pest management (IPM) employs a combination of these methods to keep pests at tolerable levels, minimize the use of pesticides, and use the least toxic chemical controls when required.



## Q. Where can I get information about pest management?

**A.** Several resources can supply information about how to manage your pests:

- **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC):**  
The DEC is the lead agency in New York for the regulation of the sale and use of pesticides. DEC conducts public outreach activities, such as this informational brochure series, and regulatory compliance assistance activities. DEC has a central office in Albany, NY, and nine regional offices located around the State to assist with pest management and pesticide regulation matters. Questions on pest management and the State pesticide regulatory program can be directed to the DEC central office, Bureau of Pesticides Management, (518) 402-8781 or to any of the DEC regional offices.
- **Brochure Series:**  
This Series will serve as a reference for homeowners, apartment dwellers, condominium owners and small businesses on the care and proper use of pest management methods as well as the regulatory requirements concerning pesticides. Small business owners should be aware of the regulatory requirements pertaining to their use of pesticides.

