Ways to create an IPM Plan

It is recommended that any businesses without a current plan should utilise the free Scottish IPM assessment plan tool available on the Plant Health Centre website.

The Scottish IPM assessment plan tool will ask you to provide the following information:

- ☑ Details of your awareness of IPM
- ☑ Details of the specific pests of greatest concern to your production
- ☑ For the current cropping year, details of the management measures will you employ to prevent/control pests on the land that you farm or manage
- ☑ Details of your view of the importance of pest prevention, pest detection, pest intervention and review control measures
- ☑ Details of accreditation/ assurance scheme membership
- ☑ Details about your decision support system if you use one
- ☑ Details of the factors that influence your use of plant protection products
- ☑ Details of where you currently get IPM advice, and what factors you consider when developing and evaluating your IPM plan.

Contacts

Soil Association advice and support

Contact our Farming and Land Use Team: 0131 370 8150

Email: contact@soilassociation.org

Find out more at Planning for Change: A Whole Farm Approach

Full scheme guidance: Whole Farm Plan full guidance

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WFP PLANS AND AUDITS

- ○ SOIL
- ○ CARBON
- ○ BIODIVERSITY
- ○ ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE
- ☑ INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Planning 4 Change

Integrated Pest Management for Whole Farm Planning

From May 2025, new requirements for the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) mean that annual Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plans will be required as part of the Whole Farm Plan (WFP), for any farm or croft that uses plant protection products (e.g. pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, nematicides, slug control agents and plant growth regulators).

Why plan IPM approaches?

Integrated Pest Management is a sustainable approach for the prevention, detection and control of plant pests and diseases and weeds through combining biological, cultural, physical and chemical tools in a way that minimises economic, health and environmental risks.

Planning is key for a successful IPM strategy. An IPM Plan can help identify key threats and possible prevention measures; establish a baseline to benchmark against going forward; and track improvements.

An IPM can help reduce reliance on chemical pesticides by more targeted applications (use of thresholds is key) and use of natural control mechanisms.

IPM measures

The diverse range of measures available can be broadly categorised into cultural, biological, physical and chemical interventions:

Cultural actions include increasing diversity in the crop rotation, intercropping, pest ID/ monitoring, record keeping, monitoring pest thresholds, good hygiene (separating livestock with hedges), planning, and crop variety choice.

Biological factors include allelopathy (chemical inhibition of one plant by another), competition (increasing seed rate to suppress weeds), habitat for predators (flower margins, beetle banks), and maintaining good soil health to increase plant resilience (adding soil organic matter, reducing tillage).

Physical actions include burying trash, rogueing volunteers, keeping soil covered with mulches/ living mulches/ green manures and cover crops; and mechanical weeding.

Chemical interventions (in non-organic systems) should be used only once pest thresholds are exceeded, and used 'as much as necessary but as little as possible'.

If you are organic, your Crop Management Plan fulfils the IPM plan requirement

Key themes

Soil health Maintaining good soil health can lower pest and disease susceptibility. Reducing tillage, soil testing (esp. pH), building fertility, supporting biology, increasing soil organic matter (SOM), and improving structure are all key practices.

Diversity Increasing crop diversity, varieties, and rotations (plus companion/ intercropping) can reduce build-up of pests and diseases.

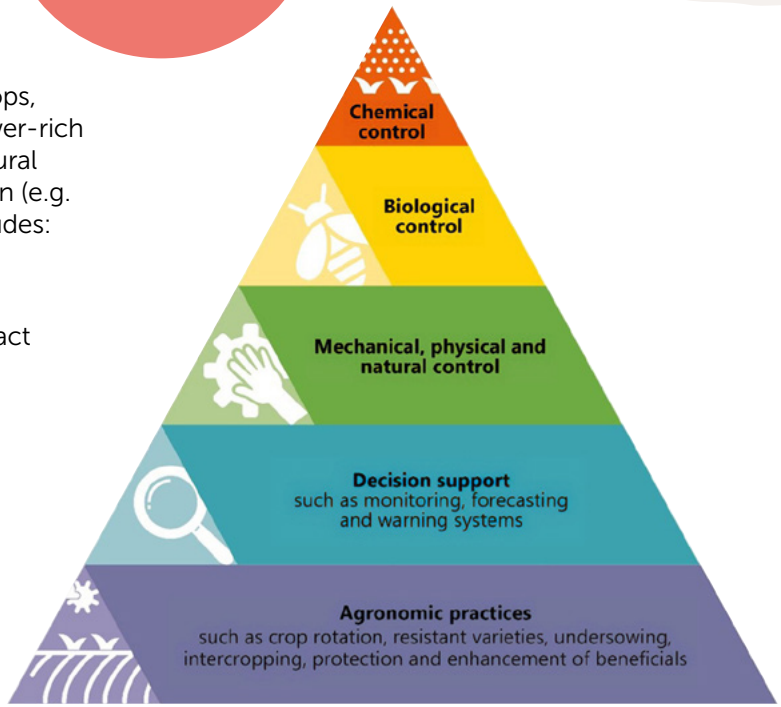
Habitats An interlinked system of margins, buffer zones, hedges and trees can provide an effective means of supporting the farm's resilience by providing habitat for predators, other ecosystem services (flood risk reduction); and acting as physical barriers (providing a biosecurity break in livestock).

Full guidance can be found online at:
www.ruralpayments.org/topics/all-schemes/whole-farm-plan

Principles of IPM

IPM is an iterative process of: Prevention (e.g. cover crops, crop rotations, resistant crop varieties, establishing flower-rich grass margins or beetlebanks to provide habitat for natural crop pest predators); Monitoring/detection; Intervention (e.g. biological control); and Evaluation. In practice this includes:

- Preventing and suppressing the build-up of harmful organisms
- Monitoring pest populations and forecasting of impact
- Use of thresholds to determine when to intervene
- Considering all options for pest control (including/ especially non-chemical)
- Selection of appropriate interventions considering all potential risks
- Minimising chemical intervention by maximising efficiency of application
- Strategising to prevent the build-up of resistance in pest populations
- Reviewing the success of a chosen strategy to facilitate continuous improvement.



SMART project- IPM Thematic Network