

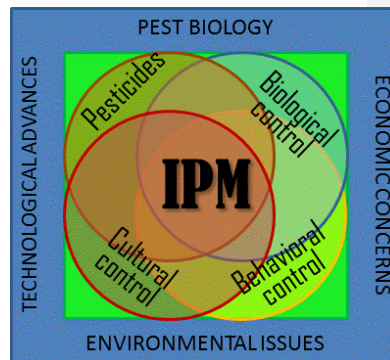


2025 Annual Report of the Maine Integrated Pest Management Council to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry

Commented [AB1]: I greatly appreciate how concise, yet informative, this report is!

December 2025

The Maine Legislature established the Integrated Pest Management Council in 2002 to promote, expand, and enhance the adoption of integrated pest management (IPM) across all sectors of pesticide use and pest management within the State. The Council serves as a forum for coordination and communication among state agencies, researchers, industry representatives, and the public, advancing the understanding and application of IPM principles. In addition to promoting environmentally responsible pest management practices, the Council supports public education and outreach on the needs, benefits, and best practices of IPM, helping Maine citizens, farmers, and land stewards make informed decisions. The Maine IPM Council is jointly administered and coordinated by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. The Council is composed of 11 members, jointly appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture and the Dean of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, representing a mix of research, industry, agriculture, and environmental interests. This report summarizes the Council's activities during 2025 and outlines priorities for 2026, highlighting ongoing efforts to support sustainable pest management and expand the reach of IPM education across the state.



2026 Priorities

- Provide unbiased, scientifically based information to the State Legislature regarding the impacts of pests and their management on Maine's citizens, environment, and ecosystems.
- Enhance outreach efforts to address misinformation related to pest management.
- Participate in outreach and educational events, including Ag Day at the Legislature, the Common Ground Country Fair, and Tri-State Greenhouse IPM Workshops, to promote IPM practices.
- Identify and support strategies for recruiting and retaining scouts and other personnel needed to sustain IPM field programs.
- Support public education efforts related to mosquito and tick management.
- Expand Council engagement by inviting additional perspectives, such as toxicologists, health inspectors, and nursery inspectors.

2025 Activities

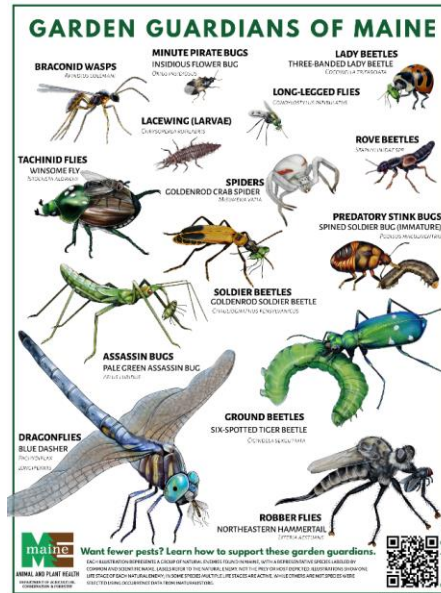
Networking and Partnership. During 2025, the IPM Council held two formal meetings (three hours each). Ongoing IPM priorities and projects were discussed at each meeting.

Advocacy. The IPM Council advocates for integrated pest management at the state and national levels. The Council submits written comments in support of IPM-related funding, legislation, research, and education when appropriate and relevant to the interests of Maine's people and communities.

Outreach and Education. During 2025, the IPM Council presented educational materials at four professional events, reaching approximately 900 individuals. Events included a Greenhouse Best Management Practices Workshop (approximately 40 participants), Maine Agricultural Day at the Legislature (approximately 45 table visits), and the Common Ground Country Fair (approximately 800 table visits). The IPM Council has secured funding through the Maine Board of Pesticides Control to support additional programs and outreach in 2026.

IPM Literacy Program. Hundreds of free, standards-aligned lessons, activities, and resources are made available to youth and educators. Through a partnership with the University of Maine at Farmington Education Department, the Council supports training for pre-service teachers. Council members also support youth education through partnerships with Maine Agriculture in the Classroom, the Maine School Garden Network, and other youth education events.

Enhanced Public Access to IPM Solutions. The Council's GotPests.org website provides an easy-to-use gateway to research-based, environmentally friendly pest management guidance and pest identification resources for the general public and Maine land stewards. The website is heavily used; in 2024, GotPests.org received 147,460 unique page views. To promote awareness of this resource, the Council has distributed a colorful promotional bookmark at events, fairs, and libraries statewide. More recently, the Council developed additional outreach materials, including posters, stickers, and bumper stickers, featuring original illustrations of natural enemies created by a Maine artist. These materials (500 posters, 10,000 stickers, and 500 bumper stickers) will be distributed to the public at events in 2026.



Outreach Poster for GotPests.org (2025)



IPM Council Members (as of December 2025)

Commented [AB2]: What is happening with the vacant seats? Do we have anyone interested in filling them?

Name	Organization	Representing / Role
Andrei Alyokhin	University of Maine	IPM research
David Handley	University of Maine Extension	Agricultural Pest Management
Paul Sweetland	Coastal Blueberry Service	Agricultural Pest Management
TBD	TBD – Seat Vacated December 2024	Citizen Interest Organization
Ron Lemin, Jr.	Nutrien	Forestry
Caleb Goossen	Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association	Organic Growers Organization
Jon Hanisko	Lucas Tree Experts	Right-of-Way
Parker Adams	Pine State Pest Solutions	Pest Control Industry
Jesse O'Brien	Ornamental Horticulture Council	Landscape IPM
TBD	TBD – Seat Vacated June 2025	Non-Profit Environmental Organization
Marilyn Meyerhans	The Apple Farm	Agricultural Pest Management
James Dill	University of Maine	Co-coordinator
Hillary Peterson	Maine Department of Agriculture	Co-coordinator

For more information about the Maine IPM Council visit www.maine.gov/ipmcouncil or email us at ipmcouncil@maine.gov