

# Agnes Scott College Integrated Pest Management Plan

Approved by Bee Campus Committee 2/21/20

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## Introduction

Agnes Scott College's Center for Sustainability and Office of Facilities work closely together to promote the sustainability of the college through thoughtful landscape and maintenance practices. In accordance with our goals as a Bee Campus, the purpose of this IPM plan is to reduce the use of chemical pesticides on Agnes Scott campus in order to prioritize safe habitat for wildlife and pollinators.

## Background

Agnes Scott has contracted BrightView since 2000 for landscape management. BrightView utilizes an integrated pest management (IPM) plan in caring for Agnes Scott grounds [which states](#): "Preventing and controlling problem insects, diseases and weeds is sometimes a challenge. All products used are done so within an integrated pest management program".

Following the establishment of Agnes Scott college as a Bee Campus, a round-table discussion was organized in November, 2019 with the BrightView Account Manager for Agnes Scott, as well as the Regional Director of Technical Services in order to highlight our goals in protecting pollinators and promoting safer, more sustainable habitats for all organisms.

## Goals of IPM

We seek to reduce the risk of pest damage to people, property, buildings, and other species via pest management strategies designed with knowledge of pest/host biology in mind. Through an IPM plan we strive to reduce the use of pesticides in order to decrease impacts on beneficial insects and subsequent species that use them as a food resource throughout the ecosystem.

Agnes Scott College seeks to uphold the tenets of IPM by:

1. Maintaining a healthy and attractive campus landscape
2. Setting action thresholds
3. Identifying and monitoring pests
4. Preventing pests

## 5. Controlling pests above action thresholds

### **Our Plan and Policy**

**Action thresholds:** Agnes Scott College Facilities in conjunction with BrightView will not regularly apply insecticides, fungicides, or herbicides to campus shrubs, trees, and other greenery except in rare cases of high risk to valuable species, in which pest species have caused significant damage, or the pest species pose a significant threat in spreading to the larger community. Agnes Scott College commits to not utilize neonicotinoids except in cases of significant damage to campus Ash trees by the Emerald Ash Borer.

Yearly applications vary as the needs of the campus fluctuate. For a current record of products used by BrightView at Agnes Scott College please contact [sustainability@agnesscott.edu](mailto:sustainability@agnesscott.edu).

**Monitoring:** Agnes Scott College Office of Facilities employees and BrightView employees are responsible for regularly monitoring and reporting instances of pest presence of concern. Agnes Scott College Office of Facilities performs monthly walk-throughs with BrightView to assess campus conditions. In the next year, Agnes Scott College hopes to organize training on pest observation and identification which will be open to staff, faculty, and students.

### **Preventing pests:**

Agnes Scott will first utilize practices of:

- Regular monitoring (Agnes Scott and BrightView employees)
- Mechanical controls (such as the use of pine straw and leaf mulching around plant beds and trees to deter weeds)
- Biological controls (planting with knowledge of pest-host interactions to select naturally resistant species with preference for natives, or co-planting species with known predator insects to deter pests)

Agnes Scott College will also integrate preventative cultural practices when possible to circumvent the use of pesticides by choosing plants and landscaping practices, as the opportunity arises for replacement, which naturally are more tolerant to/do not harbor pest species. Agnes Scott landscaping and pest management practices will prioritize the *control* of pest species over *eradication*.

**Control:**

When the above-mentioned strategies have been exhausted and pests remain above acceptable levels Agnes Scott Facilities and BrightView may then utilize alternative least-toxic tactics.