

## School IPM Inside-and-Out Interview Guide

School District:

School Name:

Date:

Interviewer:

Interviewee:

### I. Identification of Key Contacts

1. First, please explain your (the interviewee) role in school / grounds / pest management.  
Name:

Role:

2. As you know, our project focuses on improving pest management procedures and outcomes both inside and outside of the selected school site. Could you start by helping us identify the individuals responsible for the following **at the school site**?
  - a. Building maintenance
  - b. Indoor pest management decisions and implementation (this includes non-chemical pest control and the use of pesticides indoors)

- c. General turf management (not including athletic fields)
- d. Athletic field management
- e. Landscape management including trees, shrubs, flowerbeds, playgrounds, etc.
- f. Who purchases pesticides for school use?
- g. Who makes the decision to apply herbicides, insecticides or other pesticides in each area?
  - i. Landscape trees, shrubs and flower beds
  - ii. Landscape turf
  - iii. Playground turf
  - iv. Athletic fields
- 3. Who is responsible for a-e above at the district level (if different)?

## **II. Site / Pest Management Goals**

- 4. How would you describe the site / pest management goals of the district / school site?  
(Team: ask this to the district manager and each on-the-ground person, as responses may differ.)
  - a. What are the most important outcomes of your pest management program?
    - i. Buildings
    - ii. Turf
    - iii. Athletic fields
    - iv. Landscape

- b. In your opinion, what are the most important constraints related to meeting these goals?
- i. Buildings
  - ii. Turf
  - iii. Athletic fields
  - iv. Landscape

- c. What pest management challenges do you currently face in each area? (Pests can include insects, weeds, vertebrates or plant diseases.)
- i. Buildings
  - ii. Turf
  - iii. Athletic fields
  - iv. Landscape

- f. What do you see as the benefits of a healthy landscape?

### III. Site and Pest Management Practices

#### A. Indoor Pest Management

5. How frequently are indoor pest-prone areas inspected / monitored for pests?

- a. ☐ Daily
- b. ☐ Weekly
- c. ☐ Monthly
- d. ☐ Quarterly
- e. ☐ Annually
- f. ☐ Never

6. Do you keep records of pest inspection / monitoring?

- a. ☐ Yes
- b. ☐ No
- c. ☐ Don't know

7. Are sticky-traps or other pest monitoring devices used?

- a. ☐ Yes
- b. ☐ No
- c. ☐ Don't know

*If yes, may we have access to monitors and use this information to help evaluate changes in pest levels?*

8. Is a pest-sighting log used?

- a. ☐ Yes
- b. ☐ No
- c. ☐ Don't know

9. Which of the following non-chemical methods are specifically used as part of your indoor pest management program?

- a. ☐ Pest exclusion (e.g., door sweeps, window screens, caulking)
- b. ☐ Removal / elimination of cardboard
- c. ☐ Repairing leaks, standing water
- d. ☐ Eliminating pest harborage sites
- e. ☐ Education of school faculty/staff
- f. ☐ Other (please specify):

10. Pests are identified prior to implementation of any pest control strategy or pesticide use

- a. ☐ Always
- b. ☐ Most of the time
- c. ☐ Sometimes
- d. ☐ Rarely
- e. ☐ Never

11. Are pesticides applied inside the school on a routine scheduled basis?

- a. ☐ Yes
- b. ☐ No
- c. ☐ Don't know

*What products?*

*Why?*

12. Who applies pesticides inside the school? (Check all that apply)

- a. ☐ Pest management contractor
- b. ☐ Licensed / certified school staff
- c. ☐ Unlicensed school staff
- d. ☐ Teachers that bring products from home
- e. ☐ Parent-Teacher Organizations
- f. ☐ Other (please specify):

13. Are all the pesticide products used indoors labeled as "CAUTION" products (as opposed to WARNING or DANGER)?

- a. ☐ Yes
- b. ☐ No
- c. ☐ Don't know

14. Are pesticide application records maintained on file?

- a. ☐ Yes...If Yes, for how long? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. ☐ No
- c. ☐ Don't know

15. Will you provide us access to pest management service records and / or pesticide application records to help us evaluate school pest management practices?

- a. ☐ Yes
- b. ☐ No

Contact Person:

16. What is the current or most recent absenteeism rate due specifically to asthma? Will it be possible for us to obtain data to assess this?

17. How knowledgeable were you about Integrated Pest Management (IPM) before the start of this program with UA?

- a. ☐ Expert
- b. ☐ Very knowledgeable
- c. ☐ Somewhat knowledgeable
- d. ☐ I have heard the term
- e. ☐ I have never heard of IPM

18. To you, what are the most important benefits of IPM?

19. Does the school district provide training to school staff about pest management?

- a. ☐ Yes
- b. ☐ No

If yes, which staff members receive training?

## II. Site and Pest Management Practices

### B. Turf Pest Management

(Note to Interviewer: If applicable, collect separate data for playground turf.)

20. How frequently are turf areas inspected / monitored for pests and weeds?

Athletic fields

- a. ☐ Daily
- b. ☐ Weekly
- c. ☐ Monthly
- d. ☐ Quarterly
- e. ☐ Annually
- f. ☐ Never

Landscape areas

- a. ☐ Daily
- b. ☐ Weekly
- c. ☐ Monthly
- d. ☐ Quarterly
- e. ☐ Annually
- f. ☐ Never

21. Do you keep records of pest/weed inspections / monitoring?

Athletic fields

- a. ☐ Yes
- b. ☐ No
- c. ☐ Don't know

Landscape areas

- a. ☐ Yes
- b. ☐ No
- c. ☐ Don't know

22. Is a pest/weed-sighting log used?

Athletic fields

- a. ☐ Yes
- b. ☐ No
- c. ☐ Don't know

Landscape areas

- a. ☐ Yes
- b. ☐ No
- c. ☐ Don't know

23. Which of the following cultural practices are used to maintain turf areas?

Athletic fields

- a. ☐ Soil testing
- b. ☐ Timely fertilization
- c. ☐ Proper mowing height
- d. ☐ Mowing heights adjusted as needed
- e. ☐ Timely irrigation
- f. ☐ Irrigation adjusted seasonally
- g. ☐ Aeration and dethatching
- h. ☐ Overseeding

Landscape areas

- a. ☐ Soil testing
- b. ☐ Timely fertilization
- c. ☐ Proper mowing height
- d. ☐ Mowing heights adjusted as needed
- e. ☐ Timely irrigation
- f. ☐ Irrigation adjusted seasonally
- g. ☐ Aeration and dethatching
- h. ☐ Overseeding



24. Pests/weeds are identified prior to implementation of any pest control strategy or pesticide use

- a. ☐ Always
- b. ☐ Most of the time
- c. ☐ Sometimes
- d. ☐ Rarely
- e. ☐ Never

25. Are any pesticides (including herbicides) applied to turf areas on a routine scheduled basis?

Athletic fields

- a. ☐ Yes
- b. ☐ No

If yes, please specify:

Landscape areas

- a. ☐ Yes
- b. ☐ No

If yes, please specify:

*What products?*

*Why?*

26. Who applies pesticides to athletic fields? (Check all that apply)

- a. ☐ Pest management contractor
- b. ☐ Licensed / certified school staff
- c. ☐ Unlicensed school staff
- d. ☐ Parent-Teacher or Booster Organizations
- e. ☐ Other (please specify):

27. Who applies pesticides to landscape turf? (Check all that apply)

- a. ☐ Pest management contractor
- b. ☐ Licensed / certified school staff
- c. ☐ Unlicensed school staff
- d. ☐ Parent-Teacher or Booster Organizations
- e. ☐ Other (please specify):

28. Are all the pesticides used on turf (including herbicides) labeled as "CAUTION" products (as opposed to WARNING or DANGER)?

- a. ☐ Yes
- b. ☐ No
- c. ☐ Don't know

29. Are pesticide application records maintained on file?

- a. ☐ Yes...If Yes, for how long? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. ☐ No
- c. ☐ Don't know

30. Will you provide us access to pest management service records and / or pesticide application records to help us evaluate school pest management practices?
- a. ☐ Yes
  - b. ☐ No
- Contact Person:
31. What is the current rate of student injury on school turf areas?
- a. ☐ Number of students injured per year on playgrounds
  - b. ☐ Number of athletes injured on sports fields
  - c. ☐ Don't know
32. Can we have access to records about student injury rates on turf?
- a. ☐ Yes
  - b. ☐ No
- Contact Person:
33. How knowledgeable were you about Integrated Pest Management (IPM) before the start of this program with UA?
- a. ☐ Expert
  - b. ☐ Very knowledgeable
  - c. ☐ Somewhat knowledgeable
  - d. ☐ I have heard the term
  - e. ☐ I have never heard of IPM
34. To you, what are the most important benefits of IPM?
35. Does the school district provide training to school staff on pest management issues?
- a. ☐ Yes
  - b. ☐ No
- If yes, which staff members receive training?

### III. Site and Pest Management Practices

#### C. Tree & Landscape Pest Management

36. How frequently are trees, shrubs and flowerbeds inspected / monitored for pests?
- a. ☐ Daily
  - b. ☐ Weekly
  - c. ☐ Monthly
  - d. ☐ Quarterly
  - e. ☐ Annually
  - f. ☐ Never
37. Do you keep records of pest inspection / monitoring?
- a. ☐ Yes
  - b. ☐ No
  - c. ☐ Don't know
38. Is a pest-sighting log used?
- a. ☐ Yes
  - b. ☐ No
  - c. ☐ Don't know
39. Which of the following cultural practices are used? (Check all that apply.)
- a. ☐ Plants are selected based on their adaptability to the climate, soil conditions, exposure and function
  - b. ☐ Soil moisture levels and irrigation emitters are monitored periodically
  - c. ☐ Irrigation schedules are changed according to the season
  - d. ☐ Sanitation practices (e.g., raking and disposing of diseased leaves, pruning or removing cankers)
  - e. ☐ Physical pest control methods (e.g., removing egg masses or pruning out active insect infestations)
  - f. ☐ Proper irrigation practices
  - g. ☐ Fertilization
40. Pests are identified prior to implementation of any pest control strategy or pesticide use
- a. ☐ Always
  - b. ☐ Most of the time
  - c. ☐ Sometimes
  - d. ☐ Rarely
  - e. ☐ Never

41. Are pesticides applied to landscape areas (excluding turf) on a routine scheduled basis?
- a. ☐ Yes
  - b. ☐ No
  - c. ☐ Don't know

*What products?*

*Why?*

42. Who applies pesticides to landscape areas (excluding turf)? (Check all that apply)
- a. ☐ Pest management contractor
  - b. ☐ Licensed / certified school staff
  - c. ☐ Unlicensed school staff
  - d. ☐ Parent-Teacher Organizations
  - e. ☐ Other (please specify):

43. Are all the pesticide products used on landscapes labeled as "CAUTION" products (as opposed to WARNING or DANGER)?
- a. ☐ Yes
  - b. ☐ No
  - c. ☐ Don't know

44. Are pesticide application records maintained on file?
- a. ☐ Yes...If Yes, for how long? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. ☐ No
  - c. ☐ Don't know

45. Will you provide us access to pest management service records and / or pesticide application records to help us evaluate school pest management practices?
- a. ☐ Yes
  - b. ☐ No
- Contact Person:

46. How knowledgeable were you about Integrated Pest Management (IPM) before the start of this program with UA?
- a. ☐ Expert
  - b. ☐ Very knowledgeable
  - c. ☐ Somewhat knowledgeable
  - d. ☐ I have heard the term
  - e. ☐ I have never heard of IPM

47. To you, what are the most important benefits of IPM?

48. Does the school district provide training to school staff on pest management issues?

a. ☐ Yes

b. ☐ No

If yes, which staff members receive training?

### **Follow-up Questions for Annual Review or later visits**

49. Tell me about some of the changes you have noticed related to the pest management program at this school site (site of assessment and implementation).

Fewer pests

Fewer pesticide applications

Fewer absentees

Fewer allergy/sickness complaints

Better atmosphere at school

50. Tell me about some of the changes you have noticed related to the pest management programs at other school sites in the district as a result of your participation in this program.