

# Introduction to the Workshop

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**A**tttractive and functional landscapes are essential to a quality lifestyle for millions of urban and suburban dwellers (Pittenger et al., 1991). Intimate and sometimes intensive use of these landscapes causes people to have high expectations of plant performance, and they place a high value on well-groomed, healthy, mature plantings. However, many urban landscape users possess a low tolerance for insects, fungi, and other pests that damage or interfere with the function, aesthetics, or use of planted areas in the landscape. Decisions on the economics of landscape plant protection can be complex since pest damage may exceed an aesthetic injury level that is well below a traditional economic injury level (Frankie and Koehler, 1983). Chemical pesticides have been used traditionally to control many pests, but many residents have aversions to using chemicals near their residences or places of business even though the use of these products would result in an improved landscape for them to enjoy. Also, it is often difficult to apply pesticides safely to certain urban plants, such as large street trees. Thus, there is great interest among professional landscape managers, public agencies involved with landscape design and management, and the public in reducing the pesticide inputs for maintaining urban landscapes without sacrificing their function, aesthetics, or economic value.

Fortunately, there are many nonchemical tools available for this purpose, if these audiences know when and how to use them (Dreistadt, 1994; Quist, 1980). Urban landscapes, which typically possess a great variety of plant species, can be ideal settings for implementing integrated pest management (IPM) and other environmentally sound approaches to preventing unacceptable pest presence or damage while reducing the amount of pesticides used (Dreistadt, 1994).

The following articles provide an overview of pesticide use in the landscape and examples of successful IPM programs for landscape pest problems.

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## Literature cited

- Dreistadt, S.H. 1994. Pests of landscapes, trees and shrubs—An integrated pest management guide. Univ. of Calif. Div. Agr. Natural Resources Publ. 3359.
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- Quist, J.A. 1980. Urban insect pest management for deciduous trees, shrubs and fruit. Pioneer Science Publ., Ft. Collins, Colo.

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