



### ● What are pests?

A pest is any organism that spreads disease, causes destruction or is otherwise a nuisance. Some examples of pests are mosquitoes, rodents, and weeds. Not all insects are pests. Many different kinds of insects eat other insects and are beneficial species. Examples of beneficial insects are dragonflies (which feed mainly on mosquitoes) and lady beetles (which eat aphids, scale insects, mites, and other insects).

### ● How many different types of insects are there?

There are over a million different species of insects known to scientists. About 2,000 new species of insects are discovered each year! How many different kinds of insects can you name?

### ● What is IPM?

IPM stands for Integrated Pest Management. IPM is the idea of using several different methods to control pests. Using chemicals, such as pesticides, is only a small part of the bigger picture. IPM incorporates the use of such tools as insect predators, new plant varieties, and recommended farming practices to help control pest populations.

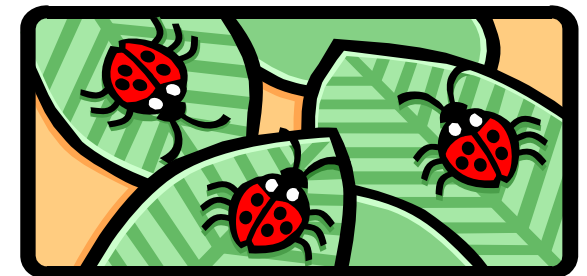
### ● When should pesticides be used to help control pest problems?

Pesticides should not always be used the first time you see a pest. Sometimes pest problems may clear up on their own due to

environmental factors and natural control. However, when the cost to repair damage done by pests exceeds the cost to control the pests, or if pest control is critical, pesticides should be considered as a possible solution.

### ● Can I use any pesticide anywhere I want to?

No, it is illegal to use pesticides in a manner contrary to label directions. There are specific pesticides designed for use inside of homes and others for outside of homes or for specific sites. Before applying any pesticide read the label to find out the correct use of the pesticide. Misapplying pesticides can lead to injury or serious problems!



● What can I do to help make sure pesticides are being used safely?

There are several things you can do to help ensure that pesticides are being used correctly. Here are some suggestions:

-Check to make sure that anyone who comes to your home to apply pesticides has a license to do so. License checks can be made on our web site: <http://www.flaes.org>

-Talk to your parents about pesticides and remind them to keep them out of the hands of children.

-If you see any misuse of pesticides, report it to the proper authority. The telephone number to call is on the back of this brochure.

Pesticides are used everyday to help control pests. Using pesticides is not always the best solution to help control pests. However, sometimes it is necessary to use pesticides. It is very important that pesticides are used correctly and only by people who are trained to do so.

If you see any misuse of pesticides, you should report it to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services at telephone number (850) 617-7870.

For more information about pesticide regulation in Florida, visit our web site <http://www.flaes.org>.

Adam H. Putnam, Commissioner  
Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
Division of Agricultural Environmental Services  
Bureau of Compliance Monitoring

September 2006

## Pesticide Safety!!



Meet Safe-T Bug!!!

Let's enter the world of Safe-T. He's a friendly little guy who wants to make sure that all living things are being protected and not harmed by misuse of pesticides that can be poisonous.