Plant Health Care (PHC) & Integrated Pest Management (IPM) flowchart

**Basics of Natural Pest Control**

**Step 1.** Prevent problems by creating a healthy garden!
- Build the soil with compost and mulch
- Choose pest- and disease-resistant plants
- Right plant, right place: consider plant needs, diversity
- Maintain plants correctly: water, nutrients
- Minimize pest habitat

**Step 2.** Yikes! There is a pest problem!
Look carefully:
- What damage do you see? Is it getting worse?
- Are insects visible? Are they pests?

**Step 3.** What is the cause?
Look it up or ask for help!
- Drought stress?
- Unhealthy plant?
- Insect?
- Disease?
- Other?

**Step 4.** What can you do about it?
- Stressed plant? See step 1
- Pest management? Use the least-toxic controls available

**Step 5.** Evaluate: How well did your control method work?

**Step 6.** How can you prevent future problems?

**Physical/cultural controls**
- Hand removal
- Traps
- Barriers

**Biological controls**
- Encourage beneficial insects
- Import predators (such as Bt, beneficial nematodes, green lacewings)

**Least toxic chemical controls**
- Soaps
- Horticultural oils
- Careful spot sprays

Created by Sage Environmental for the Green Gardening Program.
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