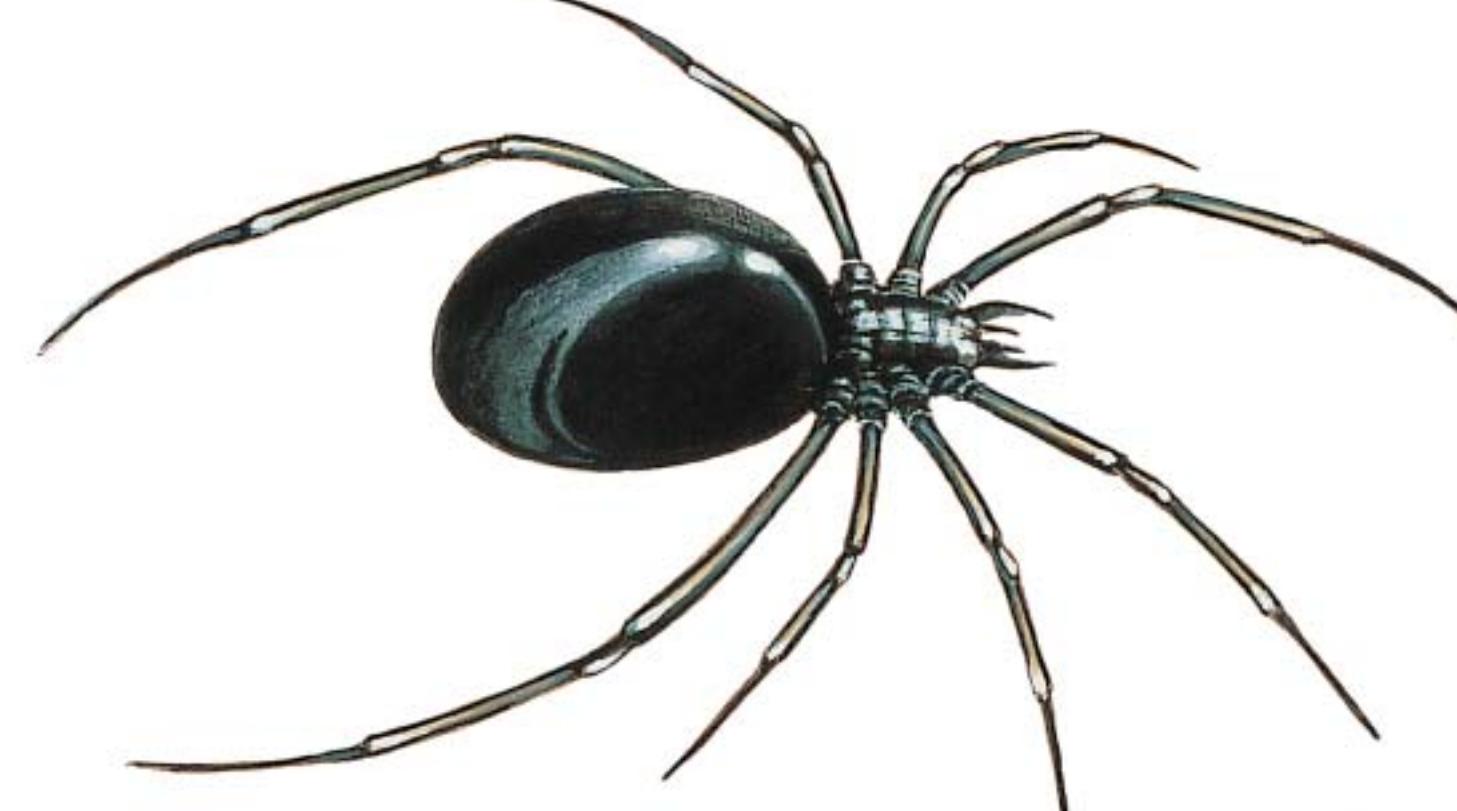


Responsible Use of Pesticides in Schools

Pests pose a very real health risk to schoolchildren:

Asthma



Allergies

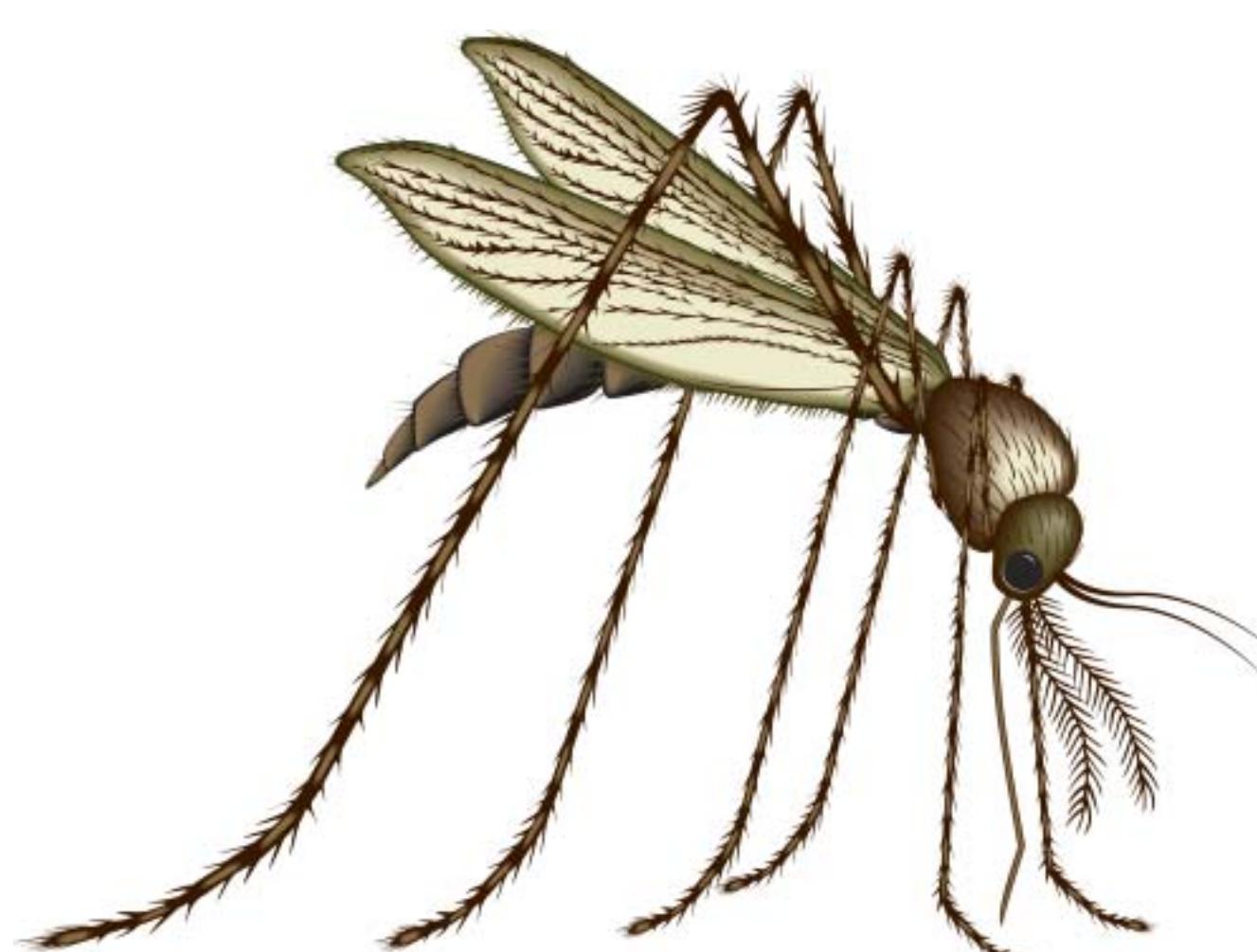
Bites



Contamination



Diseases



Stings

IPM Defined by Federal Law

"Integrated Pest Management is a sustainable approach to managing pests by combining biological, cultural, physical and chemical tools in a way that minimizes economic, health and environmental risks."

110 STAT. 1512 Public Law 104-170, August 3, 1996

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Integrated Pest Management in Schools

The judicious and responsible use of pesticides is an important component of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in schools. Pesticides are crucial tools in safeguarding children from dangerous pests and diseases. Pesticides should not be considered as the first and only method to control pests, but they are frequently essential and sometimes the only means to reduce the threat of wasps, cockroaches, rats, fire ants and other pests.

Some organizations and individuals want to ban or greatly restrict the use of pesticides in schools and communities. They want schools to believe IPM can be accomplished without pesticides. A 2003 report written by Beyond Pesticides states that a school IPM program can effectively prevent and manage pest problems without pesticides. *Safer Schools: Achieving a Healthy Learning Environment through Integrated Pest Management*, included 27 case studies from schools in 19 states that "do not rely on hazardous pesticides."

When IPM coordinators from these schools and states were contacted in spring 2005, they stated that pesticides were being used as part of an IPM program in their schools. One who claimed pesticides had not been used in over 18 months went on to say baits (that contain pesticides) were used for school pest control. Non-pesticide means of pest control are important but are often not sufficient on their own. Improved cultural practices, maintenance and cleaning combined with pesticides when needed are the best ways to safeguard the health and safety of children in school. These components are the true essence of IPM.