

Pesticide Conspiracy Article Questions

1. According to the article, what is the “American way” of killing bugs?
2. Why does the author tout traditional use of the “one pesticide” as a first line approach as dishonest, irresponsible, and dangerous?
3. What exactly is integrated pest management (IPM)?
4. Compare and contrast the Chinese vs. the American approach to pest management as portrayed by the author.
5. What was Assistant Agriculture Secretary Long’s agenda according to the article, and what affect would that have on the number of chemicals/pesticides available for use?
6. How did the Agri-Business industry and the political and economic influence it yields sway U.S. policy and attitudes towards pesticide utilization in general?
7. How did attitudes toward pesticide utilization in the time the excerpt was written influence the development of insecticide resistance?
8. Integrated pest management approaches include the use of pesticides in certain cases. Under what conditions might pesticides be part of a scientifically based integrated program?
9. What other types of alternative types of strategies and controls are important components of integrated pest management besides the use of synthetic chemicals?
10. Why do you think the author of the article calls traditional use of pesticides and their nonchalant application the “lazy man’s approach”? How is integrated pest management more flexible and intelligent?
11. Given this excerpt is from 1978, do you think our attitudes towards pesticides have changed significantly? Why or why not?
12. If you had a choice to purchase cheaper vegetables produced with traditional synthetic chemicals, or slightly more expensive vegetables produced without chemicals, which would you purchase and why?
13. California is a massive producer of agricultural crops for both domestic markets, and world wide export. Do a little research on the internet, and find three specific agricultural crops produced in California and list them.
14. Part of our historic use of pesticides is dictated by our attitudes and purchasing habits as a society. Farmers might argue that pesticides work, and that not using pesticides as they traditionally have will result in crop loss or crops of inferior quality that people won’t purchase. List two reasons for and against this statement.
15. Clever marketing and public perception risks from insect pests have also shaped peoples’ habits and willingness to use pesticides. What is your own perception and attitude towards insects and willingness to use chemicals to control them?

