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School IPM 2020

Reducing Pest Problems and Pesticide Hazards in Our Nation's Schools

School IPM 2020 Newsletter: December 2014

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Greetings from School IPM 2020!

Every day, 49 million children attend school in the United States, served by nearly seven million teachers and staff. But they're not alone. Schools are also frequented by a number of pests including cockroaches, mice, dust mites and more. Asthma is epidemic among children, impacting nearly 6% of school children nationally with rates as high as 25% in urban centers. House mice and cockroaches are potent asthma triggers.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a prevention-based, highly effective approach proven to reduce pest complaints and pesticide use by up to 90% in schools and other public buildings. IPM practices such as sanitation and exclusion also improve food safety, fire safety and energy conservation. Our newsletter highlights real-life examples of IPM in practice and can help you start an IPM program in your school district. For more information, visit www.schoolipm2015.com.

Winter Moth

Winter chill is no deterrent to the winter moth. From late November through mid-January, winter moths are active seeking mates. Male moths can often be spotted crowding around outdoor lights after dark. Females are flightless, and must walk up trees and bushes to deposit eggs. Larvae hatching in the spring can cause serious damage to trees and ornamental plants by feeding on buds. This insect is common in some areas of New England, and has also been sighted in the Pacific



Adult Male Winter Moth: Robert Childs, University of Massachusetts, Bugwood.org



What's New This Month

Start your application now for the 2015 U.S. EPA National Environmental Leadership Award in Asthma Management! Deadline is January 30, 2015, 11:59 pm EST. [Apply today!](#)

Highlights

Do you know someone whose sense of responsibility, inspirational leadership, and exemplary persistence and courage protects children from chemical hazards and unhealthy school conditions?

Nominate them today as your [2015 Healthy Schools Hero!](#)

Upcoming Events

February 18-19, 2015
School IPM Coordinator Training
DFW Area
[More Information](#)

March 24-26, 2015
8th International IPM Symposium

Northwest.

Identification and behavior

Winter moth adults emerge from cocoons in mid-to-late fall. Males are light brown to tan with hairy wings. Female moths are gray and can often be found harboring at the base of trees. Females lay eggs in crevices in tree bark, under bark scales or under lichen. Hatched larvae, identifiable by their pale green bodies with white longitudinal stripes, work their way into tree, bush or flower buds and eat their way out, and can continue to feed on newly emerged plant tissue through early June.

IPM

Winter moth caterpillar feeding can pose a serious threat to apples, cherries, blueberries and other fruit crops, as well as hardwoods including oak, basswood and ash. If winter moth adults are sighted or suspected, inspect vulnerable plants in late winter for eggs. If a problem is anticipated, sticky bands placed around the trunks of trees in early fall can intercept female moths climbing up trees to deposit eggs, and may provide some measure of control. Check bands frequently from late November through December; in high populations, the sticky surface can become completely covered with moths, allowing females to evade capture. Horticultural oil and other pesticide options are available if populations are high. Proper timing and good coverage are essential. Maintaining tree health through mulching, fertilizing according to soil analysis, and irrigating during dry or drought periods, is important to help trees recover from feeding damage.



Winter Moth Eggs - Gyorgy Csoka, Hungary Forest Research Institute, Bugwood.org

Resources on identification and management of this pest are available on the [University of Massachusetts Extension's webpage](#) and the [Connecticut IPM Program webpage](#).

Urban EPA Online Education Events for School IPM

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently announced several webinars on school IPM. "Controlling Bed Bugs in Schools via IPM" will take place today, December 16 from 1:00 - 2:30 PM CST, and will address proactive strategies to engage and educate the entire school community on how to recognize and prevent the spread of bed bugs. Sign up

Salt Lake City, UT

[More Information](#)

April 2, 2015

Turfgrass IPM Workshop

Santa Maria, CA

[More Information](#)

April 6-8, 2015

2015 Imported Fire Ant

and Invasive Pest Ant

Conference

New Orleans, LA

[More Information](#)

April 22-23, 2015

School IPM Coordinator

Training

Woodville, TX

[More Information](#)

September 23-24, 2015

School IPM Coordinator

Training

Houston, TX

[More Information](#)

October 21-22, 2015

School IPM Coordinator

Training

Kingsville, TX

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[here](#). Two EPA webinars after the New Year will address rodent and nuisance bird management in schools. Registration information for these can be found on the EPA's [School IPM Webinar Series page](#).

The Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Master Class series began on December 11, 2014, offered by US EPA and the School Health and Indoor Environments Leadership Development (SHIELD) Network. In a series of ten webinars, presenters explore topics such as HVAC Systems, moisture and mold, IPM and asthma management for schools. Each webinar includes a thirty-minute question and answer session. EPA will post recordings of webinars in the series to the [IAQ Tools for Schools Web Conferences/Webinars page](#). Those who complete all ten one-hour sessions will receive a certificate of completion for the 2015 SHIELD Network IAQ Master Class (CEUs pending). Don't miss these great free educational opportunities to further IPM and IAQ in your schools! The next webinar is scheduled for January 22, 2015. To learn more [click here](#).

How Could IPM Have Helped?

San Ysidro School District, San Diego, California is battling an unresolved lawsuit over alleged pesticide use, incurring \$35,000 in legal costs as of last month. According to media reports, in 2011, teacher Josie Hamada took her students to a cherry tree grove on school property to draw and write about trees. After clearing some weeds, Hamada found herself contaminated with a blue substance which she suspected was a pesticide. Students were quickly moved inside to wash up. Health complaints followed, including at least one student's trip to a hospital the next day.

School officials report that no pesticide had been applied by district staff or contractors, and claimed that notices are posted for every scheduled application. The district had also sent out 5,000 notices to parents asking if they wanted to receive individual notification when the school applied pesticides; only three parents responded.

Media reports indicate the cherry trees were planted as a memorial to September 11, 2001 victims. It's unclear from the news stories if the blue substance was confirmed to be a pesticide, however an informed IPM coordinator might have suggested a lower maintenance alternative before the trees were planted. Cherry trees, much like apple, crabapple, dogwood and birches, are "key plants", prone to insect and disease problems. In most environments, cherry trees and other key plants require interventions, including pesticide applications, to keep them healthy and attractive. Fruit trees also typically shed some of the crop throughout the growing season, which can provide a food and moisture source

for rodents, flies, yellow jackets and other potential pests. Weeds can also be a challenge to manage. Barrier fabric and mulch can be a solution, but can also provide harborage for rodents, and requires ongoing maintenance to be effective. To read the full story, [click here](#).

In Texas, a student died at Has Middle School in Corpus Christi following an allergic reaction to fire ant stings he received on a football field. While the district has some IPM tactics in place, their IPM practices for fire ant management were not complete. The coaching staff was not trained to recognize the signs of anaphylactic shock. Knowing when and how to inspect a field for fire ants and how to apply baits effectively are key to fire ant management.



Red Fire Ant Mound
Jake Farnum, bugwood.org

According to Janet Hurley, Extension Program Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, "Your objective should be to find the method or methods that are most cost-effective, environmentally sound and fit your tolerance level for fire ants." AgriLife Extension worked with the school IPM staff to develop a district-wide fire ant baiting program. One year later the district has reported fewer fire ant complaints and reduced cost with a broadcast bait program rather than treating individual mounds, which is time intensive, can require more pesticide use and does nothing to manage fire ants foraging from mounds on adjoining property. Properly timed bait applications can be entirely consumed by foraging ants within hours, limiting potential for exposure to the bait. The district also adopted a policy to train all staff on how to recognize anaphylaxis and how to properly respond to an allergic reaction to both pests and food-borne allergies. Read the full story [here](#). To learn more about fire ants and IPM visit [Fire Ants and the Texas IPM in Schools Program](#).

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