

# School IPM 2015

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

School IPM 2015 Newsletter: January 2012

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### Greetings from School IPM 2015!

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. 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](http://www.schoolipm2015.com).

### Superior Pest Elimination Applying IPM in New York Schools



Pest management requests for proposals or qualifications are increasingly requiring pest management professionals (PMPs) to be IPM certified to be considered. The New York Department of Education (DOE) recently required [Green Shield Certification® \(GSC\)](#) for PMPs bidding on IPM and bed bug services for over 280 public schools in the metropolitan area.

[Superior Pest Elimination](#), based in Staten Island and providing pest management services to New York City's five boroughs, was awarded part of a multiple-year DOE contract in the third quarter of 2011. In addition to the DOE accounts, Superior also provides GSC service to another 30 schools, several Head Start programs and large office and corporate buildings and banks. According to Jim Horan, general manager at Superior, the stipulation that companies must be GSC certified is extremely beneficial to clients. Horan says, "Not only do they know they're receiving a quality IPM service, but they can also feel confident that they're dealing with a knowledgeable company that follows the rigorous standards of the Green Shield Certified program. It's gratifying that organizations like the Department of Education



## What's New This Month

The Northeast Organic Farming Association has scheduled its [2012 Organic Land Care Program Accreditation Course](#), which covers how to care for residential yards and municipal and school grounds using sustainable and safe products and methods. Course dates and locations are:

- February 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, The Connecticut Agricultural Station - New Haven Laboratory, New Haven, CT
- February 27, 28, 29, March 1, 2, Kettle Pond Visitor Center Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge, Charlestown, RI

## Upcoming Events

February 28-29, 2012  
Texas School IPM Coordinator  
Training  
Plano, TX  
[More Information](#)

March 21, 2012  
California DPR IPM Workshop  
Chico, CA  
[More Information](#)

March 27-29, 2012  
7th International IPM Symposium

recognize this."

Mike Orino, the operations manager at Superior, believes that IPM, while always an option, has now become a necessity. He says that highly sensitive accounts are often best suited for the GSC service, commenting, "In a school environment, you could be dealing with several thousand children and staff, so it's a sensitive facility that requires a program like Green Shield." At Superior, "technicians aren't even allowed to carry a spray can into GSC accounts," says Orino. "They go in with a toolbox instead, containing items like monitors, glue traps, gel bait, knee pads and tools to allow them to get to the source of a pest problem."

A proactive approach is important when dealing with pests, including bed bugs. According to Orino, "The vast majority of the time when someone finds a bed bug, it isn't an infestation. It's a single bug that a child has brought in from home on their clothing or bag." When a confirmed bed bug specimen is reported in a classroom, Superior conducts a thorough inspection and cleaning. The inspection is detail oriented and necessary to validate that bed bugs aren't setting up shop in a classroom. Technicians check the locations where bed bugs like to hide, such as where children store their coats and personal belongings and the surrounding areas. "You have to be meticulous when it pertains to an inspection and also search the not-so-obvious locations bed bugs may hide," comments Horan. This can include checking outlets, gaps in desks and chairs, behind fixtures, and in cracks and crevices in the classroom. "Technicians feel a sense of accomplishment when they determine the classroom isn't harboring any bed bugs and it's a relief for teachers and students to know that bed bugs won't be going home with them!" says Horan.

"The Department of Education is taking that extra step to make sure every pest issue within the schools is being addressed immediately," comments Horan. They set a schedule for regular inspections of the schools, the frequency of which is determined by the size of the school. Michael Siciliano, director of pest control for DOE, "is really an integral part of the process," says Horan. "When necessary, Siciliano approves additional services that allow us to deal with issues in a timely manner to make sure the schools stay pest free," says Horan. Collaboration between DOE, the PMP and school staff is an essential part of a successful IPM program. For example, technicians at Superior conduct a quick interview with the kitchen staff before carrying out their inspection, to gather information on any pest sightings that occurred between visits.

Technology has also helped PMPs like Superior become more organized and efficient. All technicians at Superior input information into handheld computers at each account. "It's extremely expensive to outfit the technicians like this," Orino says, "but it's also extremely important when you service 187 public schools plus extra unscheduled services each month." The handhelds provide easily accessible information and contribute to accountability, which builds credibility and trust.

School staff also play a vital part in proactive pest management. Teachers, custodians and other staff can be observant in classrooms, cafeterias, kitchens, boiler rooms and locker areas and report pest sightings and pest-friendly conditions immediately to do their part to keep the school pest free.

Memphis, TN  
[More Information](#)

April 11, 2012  
California DPR IPM Workshop  
Carlsbad, CA  
[More Information](#)

April 11-12, 2012  
Texas School IPM Coordinator  
Training  
Angelo, TX  
[More Information](#)

May 20-23, 2012  
2012 National Conference on  
Urban Entomology  
Atlanta, GA  
[More Information](#)

June 21, 2012  
California DPR IPM Workshop  
Tulare, CA  
[More Information](#)

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### Quick Links

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## Gain Recognition for your School's Asthma Management Program

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced its annual [National Environmental Leadership Award in Asthma Management](#). The award will acknowledge programs that improve the lives of those suffering from asthma.

Schools with exemplary IPM programs would be great candidates for the "community in action" award category. IPM has been shown to reduce exposure to both pests and pesticides (Gouge *et al.* 2006) and to lower asthma triggers six times more than conventional pest management (Nalyanya *et al.* 2009). Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends IPM to address asthma.

Winners will be placed in the National Environmental Leadership Award in Asthma Management Hall of Fame and will receive an engraved award, a mention on national asthma websites such as [AsthmaCommunityNetwork.org](#), a customized press kit and support in generating media attention. Winners will also have the opportunity to serve as mentors to help other asthma programs succeed.

Applications are due February 21, 2012 and are required to address three areas: [comprehensive asthma management program](#), [getting results-evaluating the program](#) and [sustaining the program](#). See [guidelines and evaluation criteria resources](#) for information and tips to help schools create their application.

#### References:

Gouge, D.H., M.L. Lame and J.L. Snyder. 2006. Use of an implementation model and diffusion process for establishing Integrated Pest Management in Arizona Schools. *American Entomologist* 52(3): 190-96.

Nalyanya G., J.C. Gore, H.M. Linker and C. Schal. 2009. German cockroach allergen levels in North Carolina schools: Comparison of integrated pest management and conventional cockroach control. *J. Medical Entomology* 46: 420-427. <http://www4.ncsu.edu/~coby/schal/2009NalyanyaJMEschool%20allergens.pdf>



## Webinar Spreads the Word on Policies to Reduce School Pesticide Exposures

The Interstate Chemical Threats Workgroup (ICTW) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) hosted a webinar on December 15, 2011 entitled "[Effective Policies to Reduce Exposures to Pesticides in Schools.](#)"

Janet Hurley, extension program specialist with Texas AgriLife Extension Service, pointed out that states have been increasingly adopting school and childcare-specific pesticide regulations because of a lack of federal action. States have implemented regulations with mandates such as no-spray zones, interior and outdoor posting, pre-notification, reentry restrictions after applications, acceptable pesticide lists and school staff training. Hurley comments that such mandates are important to create more uniform success across an entire state, protect more people at one time and allow for more educational opportunities.

Michel Oriol, research scientist with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, reported on school-related exposure incidents throughout California and their effects on state regulations. Data showed that pesticides caused the most cases of chemical exposure to children. One such incident led to the establishment of California Safe Schools, a coalition of over 45 organizations, and prompted Los Angeles Unified School District to implement one of the most highly-regarded IPM programs in the country. The success of this policy also led to the California Healthy Schools Act.

Sherry Glick, national pesticides and schools coordinator with US EPA Office of Pesticide Programs, focused on the benefits of IPM, breaking components down into four sections of a pyramid: education and communication, sanitation, maintenance and cultural practices, and pesticides. She advocates for verifiable school IPM, meaning ongoing and sustainable IPM that includes understanding pests, setting action thresholds, monitoring and removing pest-friendly conditions.

The final presenter, Jay Feldman, executive director of Beyond Pesticides, encouraged precaution in creating pest management policies. Feldman stated that many pesticides are considered safe despite the fact that exposure can cause serious health issues, especially to children. Existing pesticide registration laws set an acceptable risk threshold for pesticides based on assessments of exposure and target population groups. However, there are complexities with the real-world use of chemicals that aren't assessed, such as mixtures and synergistic effects.

All panelists agreed that although pre-notification of pesticide applications is an important strategy to reduce exposure, implementing sanitation and exclusion to eliminate the reasons pests are present is the most effective approach.