

Florida School IPM Program

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Welcome to the Florida School IPM Program.

Florida School IPM Mission

Our goal is to reduce the risk of pests and unnecessary pesticide use by promoting integrated pest management (IPM) in schools and providing support, resources and training.

About Us

We are entomologists, extension agents, and IPM specialists at the University of Florida who encourage IPM in schools to protect the health of school and facilities inhabitants. Our goal is to reduce pest problems and unnecessary pesticide use in institutional settings.

What is Integrated Pest Management (IPM)?

People appreciate a comfortable environment in which to live and work. Environments comfortable to us may also provide food, water and harborage to pests. By using an integrated strategy for pest management, we can reduce numbers of pests as well as maintain a healthy environment. IPM is a process for balancing the risks between pests and pesticides to achieve long term pest suppression. IPM uses a wide variety of technological and management practices. Control strategies in an IPM program extend beyond the application of pesticides to include structural and procedural modifications that reduce the food, water, harborage, and access used by pests.

Points of IPM

Communication
Identification
Monitoring
Exclusion
Sanitation
Treatment Strategy
Evaluation



IPM is common sense pest control.

PEST VULNERABLE AREAS (PVAs)

There may be more to a school than meets the eye. When the lights go out at the end of the day, four, six, and eight legged invaders may abound. Researchers at the University of Florida are working with public schools to apply an integrated approach to pest management in the school environment. With an integrated approach, pest managers may reduce pest problems while reducing pesticide applications. To reduce pests in schools, you must reduce pest conducive conditions. These conditions are often found in what we call pest vulnerable areas, or PVAs. These are areas that have food, water and harborage available to pests. In order to find these pest vulnerable areas, it is important for pest managers to monitor the school for pests, this is done through monitoring stations placed throughout the school. Not only do pest managers monitor for pests, but they keep an eye out for pest harborage sites as well. Once an infestation is identified, measures are taken to reduce the infestation including, exclusion, reduction of food, water and harborage, and the judicious use of pesticides, usually in a targeted bait application. By using integrated pest management principles, we can reduce the numbers of pests as well as maintain a healthy learning environment.

PVAs

- Offices and Lounges
- Food Service Areas
- Dry Food Storage
- Custodial Closets
- Classrooms
- Storage Areas

School IPM Resources

<http://schoolipm.ifas.ufl.edu/> - National Source for School IPM - University of Florida

<http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/> - Solutions for your life – University of Florida

<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/schoolipm/index.html> - School IPM: How to Manual

Lame, M.L. 2005. A Worm in the Teacher's Apple: Protecting America's School Children from Pests and Pesticides. AuthorHouse Publishing. Bloomington, IN.



PROGRAM DIRECTORS

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