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Online training available:

<https://eces.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Contact us:

<http://schoolipm.ifas.ufl.edu/>

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Florida School IPM Focus on Training

Summer is the time to think about the start of the new school year. One of the best ways to do that is by preparing yourself and the people you work with. Please take a minute to look at some of the tools we have available on **our website** and on the national **eXtension** website. Don't forget we have lots of material you can customize on both sites to fit your needs. Our goal is to have every school using IPM to protect everyone in the school from the risks posed by pests and pesticides.

For more information about the Florida School IPM program and how to tailor our material to fit your needs please contact Faith at: foi@ufl.edu or Jennifer at: gillett@ufl.edu. We are both happy to help you make this school year a success.

Paul Mitola on Florida School IPM Training



Paul Mitola is FDACS Field Training Coordinator. Paul is from the pest control industry, spending the first 20 years of his career in different capacities as a technician, branch manager, certified operator and owner. His role at Pest Management University (PMU) has been one of compliance assistance, providing regulatory information to the industry on how to avoid infractions as it relates to Florida Statutes (482) and Florida Administrative Code (5E-14).

For the last 2 years he has been working with Pam Mattis and Faith Oi to develop 2 courses for School IPM training at PMU: one course for implementers and the other oriented toward administrators and purchasing agents. Each class will be one day. The PMU curriculum currently offers training in general household pest, termite and other wood-destroying organisms and landscape IPM. He hopes the addition of the new school IPM curriculum will help the pest control industry to understand the principles and procedures for sustainable pest management in areas of at-risk populations (schools, nursing homes, daycare centers, and hospitals).

Florida DACS has made pest management in schools a high priority, in support of the industry's concern. He hopes the pest control industry will embrace training for sustainable pest management that will be offered to the industry. He is glad that the industry is being proactive in the face of what has been repeatedly proposed to Congress by way of the School Environmental Protection Act (SEPA). This piece of legislation is ill-suited for areas of high pest pressure. More information on SEPA can be found at: **Beyond Pesticides**.

FDACS believes that if the principles of School Integrated Pest Management are followed it would help protect Teachers and Students from pests that bite, sting, are known disease vectors and allergen/asthma triggers.

If you would like to discuss Paul's role in the Florida School IPM Program please contact him at: mitolap@doacs.state.fl.us

For more information about FDACS please visit:

<http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/>

For more information about the courses offered at PMU Please visit: <http://pmu.ifas.ufl.edu/>

As soon as courses are scheduled for School IPM Training at PMU we will send an announcement in the newsletter.

Post Your School IPM News!

We hope you will submit news items and would be happy to help you write a story if you have an idea but don't have the time to write up the information. This newsletter will be published as content arrives please keep the information flowing! Please send news items to **Jennifer Gillett-Kaufman**.