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In This Issue

- Florida School IPM Focus on Bed Bugs
- Additional Bed Bug Resources
- What Everyone Should Know About IPM
- Post Your School IPM News!

Online training available:

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

Pest Management in and Around Structures:

<http://www.eXtension.org/>

Contact us:

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

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Florida School IPM Focus on Bed Bugs

You can't escape the news. Bed bugs are becoming more of a problem around the nation and in some places there are reports that they are showing up in schools. Recently, **ABC News** reported that a New York City school was improperly treated for bed bugs. It cost the school \$100,000 for the treatment, and now, it will cost upward of an additional \$250,000 for the clean-up. The teachers are worried that materials lost will not be replaced for the rest of the year.

We are seeing reports of bed bugs in Florida schools. In order to avoid problems resulting from improper applications, it is critical that we are knowledgeable on how to handle bed bug infestations.

Rather than reinvent the wheel this week we are sharing with you some of the great material that has come across our desks in the last few weeks regarding bed bugs. Over the next few issues, we will provide information on how to deal with bed bugs in schools that are more Florida specific.

Article you may find useful:

<http://www.ca.uky.edu/entomology/entfacts/ef636.asp>

Bed Bugs: A general overview of biology, behavior and control tips, including an emphasis of customer cooperation

By: Mike Potter, University of Kentucky

Additional Bed Bug Resources



At the most recent Association for Structural Pest Control Regulatory Officials (ASPCRO) meeting, it was announced that the Virginia Dept. of Agriculture received US EPA funds to develop a series of fact sheets.

Dr. Dini Miller of VPI (and UF alum) was tasked with producing the fact sheets which are nationally applicable and very well written with some of the most up to date information on bed bugs available.

- Bed Bug Prevention Methods. This fact sheet may be helpful to school staff and students as they prepare to travel for the holidays.
<http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pesticides/pdf/files/bb-prevention1.pdf>
- Non-chemical Bed Bug Management.

<http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pesticides/pdf/files/bb-nonchemical1.pdf>

- Bed Bug Treatment Using Insecticides. This fact sheet does an excellent job discussing the pros and cons of various treatments. It does not consider fumigation.

<http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pesticides/pdf/files/bb-treatment1.pdf>

The New York Department of Education actually has a kit to help school administrators deal with this issue. Remember your IPM steps, Inspect, Identify, Take Action (this may have to go back home) and Evaluate.

The forms include the brief steps needed to prepare a school prior to treatment, sample letter to parents should bed bugs be found in the classroom, data submission form to help in diagnosing bed bug infestations, and a general information sheet in English and Spanish on bed bugs. These **forms** may be helpful to Florida schools as a model.

What Everyone Should Know About IPM

Educate Yourself About IPM. There are many sources available to you information in our newsletters will help you locate quality information on timely subjects like our focus on bed bug information above. **Our website** contains good technical information regarding IPM methods and materials. Also, there are educational presentations located on the web site which provide additional descriptions of typical IPM procedures. However, the web site should just be a beginning. Your local regulatory agency and the Cooperative Extension Service are also good places to get additional information.

As a pest manager, how do I get IPM implemented into schools?

As a pest manager, you may find IPM a viable option as an alternative to traditional pest control. If you are currently servicing schools, day care centers, or city/county government facilities, and are not using IPM, you should consider the advantages of the IPM concept. If you are well trained in the practice of IPM and wish to begin implementing it into some facilities, the following information may be helpful. If the concept of IPM is new to you, the five-step process outlined on **our website** is essential to implementing IPM into schools and public buildings.

Information from **our website**.

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**.