

## In This Issue

- Florida School IPM Focus
- Know the Facts
- Emphasis on Food Cleanup
- Post Your School IPM News!

## Past Issues

## 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- Food

It is that time of year again when all thoughts turn to food! This is going to be a great issue to share with your administrators, teachers and staff. Managing food in the classroom can have a huge impact on pest populations and the dreaded January return to a school full of fat pests.

For this issue we will focus on trends that may be impacting you this season: candy in the classroom and holiday foods and breaks.

As always for more information on other pests or on developing an IPM program please visit our [website](#).

## Know the Facts: Food in the Classroom



- Yes, that picture is of yummy cupcakes. Yes, the frosting will get everywhere and the little pumpkin will get left on the back of the desk shelf with the wrapper.
- Yes, this is a bonanza for pests!
- Most indoor pest problems can be traced to food or water availability.
- Now as it is getting cooler outside pests are looking for a cozy place to spend the winter. What is nicer than a nice warm home full of yummy food?
- Hopefully you have been doing your best to exclude pests but prepare for occasional invaders by removing food from the classroom.
- Ask teachers to be vigilant in checking desks and cubby areas for candy wrappers or food debris.

## Emphasis on Food Cleanup

Are you finding food everywhere? Ask your teachers and staff for help identifying problem areas. If you find stuck on food like frosting try to wash an area with soapy water or with a cleaner approved by your school district. Remember, many school districts have restricted the use of bleach, so make sure that you are in compliance with the cleaning product you choose.

No one wants pests in their room, they will most likely be willing to help if they know the benefit for them. You can use this as an educational moment to talk about how IPM works in your school. Sanitation is the key, in this case and if you leave a clean school the pests should be going hungry this holiday season!

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## 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**.

Visit our website for back issues of **Florida School IPM News**. You can scan the QR code on the right with your smart phone or tablet to get there faster. You will need a QR code reader!