

In This Issue

- Florida School IPM Focus
- Know The Facts
- Emphasis On Identification
- Read All About It
- 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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School IPM Focus- Are You itchy?

We love getting newsletter requests! Some requests however can make us a bit itchy. Head lice and bed bug bites are not the only things that make folks itch. Some time you just get itchy for no apparent reason. This is not a problem for most folks that scratch the spot and don't stop to wonder why they scratched. For other folks they scratch the spot and wonder why, then they scratch it again- soon the area gets inflamed and they are off to the internet or the doctor's office in search of the answer to the invisible itch.

This issue will cover what we call invisible itch (AKA- unexplained dermatopathy or Morgellons), a topic that might come-up in your school. We hope to provide some resources for you and give you a contact (not us) that specializes in the study of the invisible itch.

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

Know The Facts: Itching



We might be called Dr. Oi and Dr. Gillett but we are not medical doctors! Be sure that you are not diagnosing or dismissing a problem that a student or staff member is reporting from your school. If they conclude that an arthropod is causing the itch it is your job to remove that arthropod from the school environment if possible. If no arthropod culprit can be found we suggest you contact Ronni at 706-542-9033 or Insects@uga.edu.

Emphasis On Identification

Some itching is for a reason! Fleas, ticks, biting midges and mosquitoes, lice, and fire ants are common obvious culprits. Once you have an identification standard IPM principles can be used to control the pests, and the problem should decrease in time.

Sometimes the causes of itching are obscure. Some obscure culprits include mites such as:

- Chiggers
- The human itch mite that causes scabies
- Bird mites and mites on rodents that incidentally feed on humans
- The straw itch mite, cheese mite, and other grain and mold mites that can also cause itching or an allergic reaction
- Follicle mites that live in human hair follicles. Allergic reactions to

this mite are rare and are characterized by acne or loss of eyelashes.

The house dust mite is commonly blamed as the cause of itching, but research indicates that this mite is more connected with asthma and respiratory-related allergies. Most mites, including the house dust mite, require a microscope for species identification.

Read All About It

We don't usually send out the papers that have been published recently in scientific journals because no one has time to read all the new stuff that comes out every day. If you happen to find yourself with some free time you might want to take a look at a short new paper that has just been published:

Pearson ML, Selby JV, Katz KA, Cantrell V, Braden CR, et al. (2012) **Clinical, Epidemiologic, Histopathologic and Molecular Features of an Unexplained Dermopathy** PLoS ONE 7(1): e29908.
doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0029908

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!