

School Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Newsletter – August 2013



COLLEGE OF
AGRICULTURE
& LIFE SCIENCES
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

View this newsletter as a [PDF](#).

Seven steps to start a school IPM program

The EPA recommends that schools use integrated pest management (IPM) to reduce pesticide risk and exposure to children. IPM is more effective at managing pests compared with the routine application of pesticides. A school IPM program can reduce pest complaints in a school by 78-90% and is the most cost effective approach to pest management. Pesticide applications can be reduced by more than 80% in some instances, while pest incidence is similarly reduced. It's just plain old-fashioned common sense.

Here are seven steps to start an IPM program in your school:

- Step 1: Develop an official IPM policy statement for your school or school district, including notification guidelines, record keeping, pesticide storage, training and education. Share it with parents, teachers and pest management practitioners.
- Step 2: Designate pest management roles for occupants, pest management personnel, and key decision-makers. Communicate with each other effectively and efficiently.
- Step 3: Set pest management objectives for different sites (such as playground areas, kitchens, classrooms and auditoriums). Pest management objectives will differ for each site.
- Step 4: Regularly inspect sites and identify and monitor pest populations for potential problems.
- Step 5: Set action thresholds for each key pest.
- Step 6: Apply IPM strategies to control pests, including sanitation, exclusion, least-hazardous pesticides and monitoring.
- Step 7: Evaluate results and keep records of all pest management activities.

Read more about school IPM:

<http://epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/>

<http://epa.gov/schools/>

<http://epa.gov/pestwise/ipminschoools/index.html>

<http://epa.gov/pestwise/ipminschoools/strategicplan.pdf>

Making school life interesting – four letter word, begins with L, ends in E. Yes, you guessed it: LICE

Each school in the nation has faced a head lice outbreak at one time or another. The Arizona Department

of Health Services advocates for a qualified “no nit” policy in schools, while our entomologists at the University of Arizona disagree. Many of the older pediculocides (both over-the-counter and prescription options) are not very effective because of significant insecticide resistance. However, the good news is that there are newer, safer treatments that use benzyl-alcohol that are highly effective, with far fewer unwanted side-effects.

Nit-picking is helpful, but it is very difficult to get them all and it is not justifiable to exclude a child from school based on the presence of a few “old” nits that are far removed from scalp line.

Please Note: head lice do not transmit diseases, and they are NOT considered to be a significant public health problem. The presence of lice alone should not be the reason for a child missing school. Find out what your school district head lice policy is. Most school districts list their head lice policy on the school website.

Learn more about head lice management: http://www.extension.org/pages/20989/school-ipm-action-plan-for-head-lice#.Uf58Qdbn_IU

De-clutter your school

A cluttered workspace, classroom or kitchen creates barriers to efficiency and an environment in which people may feel stressed by visual overload. Clutter also contributes to the accumulation of dust and provides harborage for insects or mice. De-cluttering has the immediate effect of eliminating pest harborage and reducing indoor asthma triggers (such as insect allergens and dust mites). Keeping insect allergens, often from insect feces and dead insects, and dust at a minimum will improve the indoor air quality for all students and staff, especially those who are asthmatic. Clutter control reduces pest harborage, improves sanitation, and ultimately improves the quality of indoor air that staff and students breathe each day.

Read more: (Clutter Control, August 2005) http://cals.arizona.edu/urbanipm/pest_press/index.html

When is a pesticide not part of the school IPM program?

According to the U.S. EPA, a pesticide is a chemical used to prevent, destroy, repel, or mitigate pests. Often misunderstood to refer only to insecticides, the term pesticide also applies to herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides, and various other substances to control pests. Many household cleaners are considered pesticides as well, by the EPA, and as sanitation is a critically important component of all IPM programs, the cleaning products used should be assessed as part of product safety reviews. Recently there has been confusion over some public health products that are labeled as pesticides by the EPA, an update is provided by Janet Hurley and Don Renchie <http://schoolipm.tamu.edu/2013/05/08/school-pest-newsvolume-12-issue-3-may-2013/>

Environmental Education News and Reports

Fresh air in classrooms and absences

Scientists at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab) found “More fresh air in classrooms means fewer absences”. Analyzing extensive data on ventilation rates collected from more than 150 classrooms in California over two years, the researchers found that bringing classroom ventilation rates up to the state-mandated standard may reduce student absences due to illness by approximately 3.4 percent. Read more: http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2013-06/dbnl-mfa060513.php

Healthy school environment resources

EPA’s Healthy School Environment Resources is your one-stop site for information and links to school environment health issues. It is your gateway to on-line resources to help facility managers, school administrators, architects, design engineers, school nurses, parents, teachers and staff address environmental health issues in schools. Visitors can browse resources by topic or by geographic area, or search by keywords. Learn more: <http://www.epa.gov/schools>

New website for America’s Children and the Environment

EPA published the third edition of America’s Children and the Environment (ACE3) in 2013. It is EPA’s newest report presenting data on children’s environmental health. ACE3 brings together information from a variety of sources to provide national indicators and related information on the environment and children’s health. The new website makes all of the ACE3 indicators easily accessible, with a separate webpage for each ACE3 topic. Read more: <http://www.epa.gov/ace/>

University of Arizona Extension Hires a New Assistant in Extension



Dr. Shaku Nair joined the Arizona Pest Management Center on July 1, 2013 as a new Assistant in Extension, Community IPM. She will be working with the Community IPM Leadership Team, an interdisciplinary team of extension and research faculty from across the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) to develop and implement priority extension programs for Community Integrated Pest Management (IPM) statewide. The current priority identified by the team is implementation of IPM programs for indoor and outdoor environments in and around schools.

Shaku earned her Ph.D in Entomology from the University of Georgia (UGA). Prior to joining UA, she was working as a post-doctoral researcher in landscape IPM at UGA during which time she conducted research on pests of landscape and turfgrasses. Apart from research, she has been active in teaching, extension and outreach activities, involving students and extension workers. She was also involved in producing a number of research and extension publications and media. Shaku is enthusiastic about educating people about sustainable pest management and hopes to put her prior experience to good use in this new position.

Sensible Steps to Healthier School Environments Webinar Series

Join EPA for their new webinar series based on the [Sensible Steps Brochure](#) (PDF) (26pp, 1.75MB) and the [State School Environmental Health Guidelines](#). The webinars share low- and no-cost actions that schools can take to create healthier environments for students and staff. Each webinar features school district staff from across the country presenting real-life examples of successes. The target audience

includes facility maintenance staff, school nurses, administrators, teachers, and other school personnel and stakeholders. Upcoming webinars:

August 20, 3-4 p.m. Eastern: [Current Issues in Chemical Management, Best Practices for Schools and Districts](#)

September 25, 3-4 p.m. Eastern: [Cleaning and Maintenance, Sensible Steps for Creating Healthier School Environments](#)

October 22, 3-4 p.m. Eastern: [Sensible Steps for Energy Efficiency and Waste Reduction in Schools](#)

November 19, 3-4 p.m. Eastern: [Sensible Steps for Mold and Moisture Control In Schools](#)

December 17, 3-4 p.m. Eastern: [Renovate Right: EPA's Renovation, Repair and Painting \(RRP\) Program at Schools](#)

Read more about Sensible Steps to Healthier School Environments Webinar Series, visit:
<http://www.epa.gov/schools/webinars.html>

Upcoming Webinars and Events

Attend Free Sessions of the Green Strides Webinar Series

The [Green Strides Webinar Series](#) provides school communities the tools to reduce their schools' environmental impact and costs; improve health and wellness; and teach effective environmental literacy, including STEM, green careers, and civic engagement. Find more sessions for educators, facilities managers, and advocates weekly, click [here](#).

August 7, 2013, 1-2 p.m. Eastern / 10-11 a.m. Arizona: [Mold and Moisture Control in Schools: Potential Health Effects and Safe Clean-Up Practices \(EPA\)](#)

August 14, 2013, 2-3 p.m. Eastern / 11-12 p.m. Arizona: [Training Tools for Healthy Schools \(CDC\)](#)

August 20, 2013, 3-4 p.m. Eastern / 12-1 p.m. Arizona: [Current Issues in Chemical Management, Best Practices for Schools and Districts \(EPA\)](#) **Sensible Steps to Healthier School Environments Webinar Series**

August 21, 2013, 2-3 p.m. Eastern / 11-12 p.m. Arizona: [Guide to Implementing Comprehensive School Physical Activity Programs \(CDC\)](#)

August 22, 2013, 2-3 p.m. Eastern / 11-12 p.m. Arizona: [Recycle-Bowl Competition and Educational Resources \(KAB\)](#)

August 27, 2013, 2-3 p.m. Eastern / 11-12 p.m. Arizona: [A Teacher's Role in a Successful Green Cleaning Program \(HSC\)](#)

August 28, 2013, 3-4 p.m. Eastern / 12-1 p.m. Arizona: [Outdoor Activities in Nature Can Make Kids Healthier and More Ready to Learn \(NEEF\)](#)

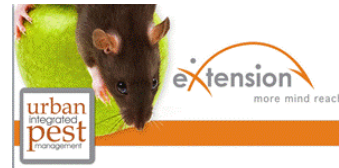
September 4, 2013, 4-5 p.m. Eastern / 1-2 p.m. Arizona: [Food Day in Schools: How to Get Involved \(Center for Science in the Public Interest\)](#)

September 10, 2013, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Arizona: 19th Annual Maricopa County Short Course
[“Precision Technologies for Variable Rate Pesticide Applications”](#). SRP Pera Club, 1 E.
Continental Drive, Tempe, AZ 85281

6 hours CEU's granted by both AZ Department of Agriculture and AZ Office of Pest Management and 0.55 pts by GCSAA. Registration fee of \$25 includes refreshments and lunch. Late registration fee will be \$40 after September 5 or day of short course. Receipts will be available upon sign-in at short course. Find more information: <http://turf.arizona.edu/events.htm>

For more information about the EPA Schools program, visit:
<http://www.epa.gov/schools/>

For more information about the Community IPM, visit:
<http://www.extension.org/pages/23359/urban-integrated-pest-management-community-page>



For more information about School IPM in Arizona, visit:
<http://cals.arizona.edu/apmc/westernschoolIPM.html>

Shujuan (Lucy) Li, Newsletter Editor and Assistant in Extension. Email: lisj@cals.arizona.edu

Dawn H. Gouge, Public Health IPM Expert. Email: dhgouge@cals.arizona.edu

Shaku Nair, Assistant in Extension. Email: nairs@email.arizona.edu

Al Fournier, IPM Assessment. Email: fournier@cals.arizona.edu

Ursula Schuch, Landscape Horticulture. Email: ukschuch@ag.arizona.edu

Paul Baker, Urban Entomologist. Email: pbaker@ag.arizona.edu

Kai Umeda, Extension Agent, Turf. Email: kumeda@cals.arizona.edu

Dave Kopec, Turf Specialist. Email: dkopec@ag.arizona.edu

Acknowledgements

This material is based upon work that is supported in part by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA NIFA). Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Additional support is provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the University of Arizona – Arizona Pest Management Center (APMC).



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture