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**Please consider distributing this newsletter to others.**

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## **To Overseed or Not**

Shaku Nair, Department of Entomology

(Adapted from “*Overseeding Winter Grasses Into Bermudagrass Turf*”, by David Kopec and Kai Umeda. University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Publication #AZ 1683).

Overseeding is the practice of spreading grass seeds directly into standing turf, and this could be done for various reasons – to improve appearance, change the color and thickness, fill bare areas, or to revive an old lawn that has been affected by pests or diseases. One of the most common applications of overseeding is to seed cool-season winter grass into an existing warm-season grass lawn prior to it going into dormancy for the winter.

Warm season turfgrasses (bermudagrass, zoysiagrass, and St. Augustinegrass) become dormant and typically lose their green color during winter (Figure 1). Overseeding the warm-season grass provides a green lawn through the winter until springtime, when the warm-season grasses come out of dormancy and resume their growth.



Figure 1. Warm season grasses lose their green color during winter and turn a golden tan. (Photo: Petra Faltermaier).

In the low desert, the ideal time for overseeding is when daytime temperatures are 80-85°F and nighttime temperatures are about 55°F (October – November). Overseeding too early when temperatures are warmer favors bermudagrass and prevents the winter grass from getting established. Later overseeding may be threatened by frost when young seedling grasses may be damaged.

Bermudagrass lawns are commonly overseeded, and the popular choice of winter grass for overseeding is perennial ryegrass. St. Augustinegrass and zoysiagrass are generally not suited for overseeding.

Read more about the process of overseeding winter grasses into summer lawns and the spring transition, in our [publication](#).

### **Overseeding under drought conditions?**

Many homeowner associations in Arizona are encouraging residents to skip overseeding this year, to save water and resources. The following links provide information that might help you take a decision:

- The Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (AMWUA) brochure on [desert lawn care](#).
- The Water-Use It Wisely Campaign [interactive watering guides](#) and tips to keep overseeding water efficient.

### **Alternatives to overseeding**



Figure 2. Turf colorants being applied to dormant bermudagrass in a school playing field.

Turf colorants such as paints and dyes might serve as a good alternative to overseeding. The colorants keep the dormant grass green through winter, and also help it to come out of dormancy earlier because of solar heat retention, which warms up the soil and roots. Read more about using turf colorants in this [article](#).

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## We'll Take Your Ticks

**The Border Tick and *Rickettsia* Surveillance (BiTeRS) program of the Pacific Southwest Center of Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases (PacVec)** offers services to enhance surveillance for ticks and tick-borne pathogens of human health concern in California and Arizona. This is made possible through our project leaders at the University of California, Davis, and the University of Arizona, and collaborating local and state agencies, including the California Department of Public Health and the Arizona Department of Health Services.



**We help every step of the way, and identification and pathogen testing are FREE. Collection supplies and protocols are provided, and partners receive all results on ticks they have submitted.**

### We work with partner organizations to:

- Perform surveillance for ticks and tick-borne diseases in their area
- Learn about risks of tick-borne diseases in their area by testing ticks for pathogens/diseases
- Collect and submit ticks for identification and testing
- Rapidly report results of tick identification and pathogen testing to submitting partners
- Provide training on ticks and tick-borne disease

### Partner organizations may be:

- Government entities (local, tribal, county, or other)
- Workplaces with tick exposure
- Animal control, humane, or veterinary organizations
- Pest control services
- Other businesses or groups near the southern border with potential tick exposure

**Download the BiTeRS Flyer for distribution: <https://pacvec.us/biters/>**

# Got Ticks? Contact BiTeRS

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**In California, please contact Janet Foley or Laura Backus at [Calticks@Pacvec.us](mailto:Calticks@Pacvec.us) or call (530) 754-9740. In Arizona, contact Dawn Gouge or Lucy Li at [AZTicks@Pacvec.us](mailto:AZTicks@Pacvec.us) or call (602) 418-5202. Stay Safe!**

## October Is National Children's Health Month

During October, EPA raises awareness about children's unique vulnerabilities to environmental exposures and focuses special emphasis on kid's health through social media, events, and communication with partners. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Children's Health Protection celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022. The office was established by executive order in 1997, and to this day continues to build on the excellent progress made to confront issues and provide solutions to children's environmental health. This Children's Health Month's theme is to protect children at all stages and in all communities. Childhood is made up of a sequence of stages, with each stage facing unique environmental risks. Access EPA's resources related to Children's Health Month (articles, graphics, printable and shareable handouts and activities for kids) at <https://www.epa.gov/children/childrens-health-month>.



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### What the Heck was This?



**Answer:** This is a female desert cockroach (sand cockroach) with her egg sac. Desert cockroaches (family Corydiidae) can thrive in desert landscapes around homes and similar structures. They are nocturnal and hide under sand, gravel, wood piles or mulch during the day, and feed at night.

**Congratulations to Master Pest Detective Jennifer Sweeney BCE, MS, All-American Pest Control Inc. Nashville, TN.**

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## What the Heck is This?



Photo: Alan Schmierer

If you know the answer, email Dawn at [dhgouge@email.arizona.edu](mailto:dhgouge@email.arizona.edu). You will not win anything if you are correct, but you will be listed as a “Master Pest Detective” in the next newsletter issue.

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To view all our previous newsletters, visit: <https://acis.cals.arizona.edu/community-ipm/home-and-school-ipm-newsletters>.

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## Upcoming Events

The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Turfgrass Program will present the annual **Pest Management and Pesticide Safety Seminars 2022 for Golf and Landscape Maintenance** personnel. This year, they will be offered on two dates and locations: **December 8th** at Sun City West, and **December 9th** at Mesa. Both events will feature presentations by experts on various aspects of turf and landscape pest management and pesticide safety. Six AZ Dept. of Ag. ESD (Ag.), PMD (OPM) and GCSAA CEUs will be applied for. Registration information and schedule coming soon. For more information, please contact Shaku Nair at [nairs@arizona.edu](mailto:nairs@arizona.edu).

The University of Arizona, in collaboration with the Arizona Pest Professional Organization, will host 2022 **Southwest Rodent Academy, November 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>** for pest management professionals and those who are interested in rodent management. This workshop is an in-person event at the Maricopa Agricultural Center, 37860 W. Smith-Enke Rd. Maricopa, AZ 85138. Same 6 AZ PMD CEU Hours will be provided each day. Don't miss this great training event! Space is limited and please register here: <https://www.azppo.org/event-4939380>.

For more information, please contact Lucy Li at [lucyli@arizona.edu](mailto:lucyli@arizona.edu).

### **National Park Service IPM Webinar Series**

"Integrated Pest Management for Round-tailed Ground Squirrels" on Thursday, October 27th at 11:00am MT.

[Register here!](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5210887295684525839) (<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5210887295684525839>)

### **What's Bugging You? First Friday Events (New York State IPM Program) Fridays | 12:00 pm. – 12:30 p.m. EDT | Zoom | Free; registration required**

The first Friday of each month, spend half an hour over lunch learning about practical solutions for pest problems with the New York State IPM Program. Each presentation will end with an IPM Minute.

<https://nysipm.cornell.edu/whats-bugging-you/first-friday-events/>

Upcoming First Friday Events:

- November 4, 2022: **Repellents, fencing, and other IPM approaches for managing deer damage** (*IPM Minute: Where you chuck your pumpkins matters*)
- December 2, 2022: **Homeowner update on emerald ash borer management** (*IPM Minute: Creepy crawly Christmas—what to do if you find insects in your Christmas tree*)

### **Horticultural Research Institute (THRIVE) web series**

**Free and open to the public, registration required. Times listed are Eastern Time.**

<https://www.hrresearch.org/thrive-web-series>

- November 3, 2022 | 11:00 a.m.: Smart Plants—Magical interactions between flowers and their pollinators

### **Stop Pests in Housing Webinars for Multifamily Housing**

- 1) **3 Simple Steps for Reducing Pest Complaints in Your Apartment Buildings. November 10<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm eastern (1pm Central, 12pm Mountain, 11am Pacific).**

You'll learn there are three very simple steps that will immediately start you on the path to relief. Implementing these steps starting now, will hit infestations before next season and start you on the path for reducing complaints into next

summer and beyond! Register at

[https://cornell.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_3sjBs16uSFSpdpiqYBBIQ](https://cornell.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3sjBs16uSFSpdpiqYBBIQ)

**2) No More Prep! A Progressive Approach to Bed Bug Preparation. December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 1:00pm -2:15pm (12pm Central, 11am Mountain, 10am Pacific).**

Tired of making your residents prepare for bed bug treatment? Tired of all the chaos and arguing associated with prep work? While prep may be necessary in a small percentage of problematic units, prep should not be required to eliminate bed bugs in 90-95% of infestations. This seminar will present a progressive way to treat for bed bugs that does not include preparation in most apartments.

Register at:

[https://cornell.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_nKBy9XchRWS2v3gOGR4Qvg](https://cornell.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nKBy9XchRWS2v3gOGR4Qvg)

### **EPA Webinars about Integrated Pest Management**

The EPA Center of Integrated Pest Management hosts a webinar series featuring national experts from across the country relaying educational and practical strategies for establishing and improving integrated pest management programs in buildings. We invite you to review the information on the past topics. Register for new or review archived IPM webinars <https://www.epa.gov/ipm/previous-webinars-about-integrated-pest-management>.

#### **Upcoming webinars:**

**“Identifying and Managing Toxic Plants”** November 15, 2022 12:00 – 1:30 PM MST. Learn about some dangerous, toxic plants scattered through forests, fields and even sneaking into your landscaped areas. These plants can be extremely toxic to the touch—with sap that cause burns and blindness to humans and dogs and can cause respiratory failure in other mammals if ingested. Learn how to identify these plants, their range, and how to remove and control them. Discover how these Invasive plants are controlled in a larger scale such as rangelands, and field crops. Register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5147869885647118860>

**“There’s a Fly in My Soup–IPM in Restaurants”** December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022 12:00-1:30 PM MST.

Restaurants are in business to feed people, but unfortunately, they can also be a breeding ground for pests because they provide food, water, and shelter. Restaurants are held to a high standard for managing pests by customers and their local food safety inspectors. This webinar focuses on the major pests found in restaurants (flies, cockroaches, and rodents) and the IPM tactics for their prevention and control. Flies in kitchens, food storage, service, and eating areas can cause food contamination and pose a health risk. Key species include house, fruit, and drain flies, and many others. Correct identification of flies is important and influences management decisions because different species have distinct needs and behaviors. Also discussed will be the importance of selecting a pest management service provider.

Register at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7650471600249648652>



## ESA launches IPM certificate program

Pest management professionals can jumpstart their careers through the Certified Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Technician credential from the Entomological Society of America Certification Corp. <https://entocert.org/cit>



Designed for professionals with less than five years' experience in pest management, the Certified IPM Technician (CIT) credential demonstrates a foundational skillset and commitment to the IPM principles and practices. Applications for the credential are now being accepted by the ESA Certification.

ESA also offers several other certification programs for professionals:

- Public Health Entomology Certificate
- Board Certified Entomologist
- Associate Certified Entomologist
- Associate Certified Entomologist (International)

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## Acknowledgements

This material is in part funded by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under award number 2021-70006-35385 that provides Extension IPM funding to the University of Arizona. It is funded in part by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture through the Western Integrated Pest Management Center, grant number 2018-70006-28881. Additional support is provided by the UA Arizona Pest Management Center and Department of Entomology. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Agriculture or those of other funders.