

# School Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Newsletter – July 2013



COLLEGE OF  
AGRICULTURE  
& LIFE SCIENCES  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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## Summer Pest Proofing

While we are taking our vacations, you can rest assured that pests won't take any time off this summer. In fact, with the high heat and high humidity of the monsoon season upon us, there may be an increase in pest activity. To avoid pest outbreaks over the summer, use this time to pest-proof your school or property. Schools can protect and improve occupant health by keeping classrooms and common areas clean and well maintained.

Read more about pest proofing (June/July, 2008, "Year-end Pest Proofing"; June, 2006, "Pest Proofing").

[http://cals.arizona.edu/urbanipm/pest\\_press/2008/june-july.pdf](http://cals.arizona.edu/urbanipm/pest_press/2008/june-july.pdf)

[http://cals.arizona.edu/urbanipm/pest\\_press/2006/june.pdf](http://cals.arizona.edu/urbanipm/pest_press/2006/june.pdf)

<http://cals.arizona.edu/pubs/insects/az1320.pdf>

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## School District Survey Reveals Successes and Opportunities

Public school representatives in Arizona played an important role last year in the national school IPM initiative. Our thanks go to all those who responded to the IPM survey which was piloted in Arizona, we finished with a 42% completion rate and gained extremely valuable information. We hope we can serve you better as a result. The national school IPM working group has now distributed the survey nationally to measure progress towards the goal of implementing IPM in all US public schools by 2015. As of June 1, 22 states had reached a response rate of 40% of districts in each state. Of a total of 2,479 districts that have responded, 50% reported that they had written IPM policies and 46% had written IPM plans. In addition, 52% had an IPM coordinator, most with more than two years of experience. More than 83% of districts reported that only licensed pesticide applicators applied any pesticide product in school buildings.

The survey also identified opportunities for improvement. The majority of districts reported applying pesticides on a regular or routine basis inside and outside school buildings. More than 42% of responding districts reported using pest or IPM factsheets, of which 17% use IPM training tools for staff and 14% read IPM newsletters.

Results from the survey are being used to update the action plan in *School IPM 2015*, the pest management strategic plan for US public schools.

More information can be found at:

[http://www.ipminstitute.org/school\\_ipm\\_2015/index.htm](http://www.ipminstitute.org/school_ipm_2015/index.htm)

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## Monsoon Wonder

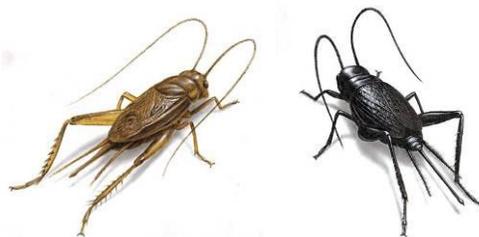
It's monsoon season in Arizona. It may mean rain, wind, and dust to us, but for many bugs, it is the time when the deserts limiting factor (water) becomes abundant. Therefore it is a time for reproduction and dissemination. You may encounter some amazing beetles, such as Palo Verde Root Borer beetle and fig beetles; see the winged, reproductive forms of ants and termites swarm or congregate for mating following rains; notice red velvet mites are making their annual return; see and hear a lot of cricket activity indoors and outside; and observe male tarantulas are on the move.

For more information, read "Monsoon Swoon" (July/August, 2007).

[http://cals.arizona.edu/urbanipm/pest\\_press/2007/july\\_aug.pdf](http://cals.arizona.edu/urbanipm/pest_press/2007/july_aug.pdf)



Adult Palo Verde Root Borer beetle



Indian House cricket (left) and Field cricket (right)



Fig beetle on fruit  
Photo by Alex Wild,  
myrmecos.net



Tarantula with water droplets after a  
thunderstorm (Photo by Bill Shaw, UA)



Red Velvet mite adult  
(Photo by Doris Evans)

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## IPM Trainings for School Teachers and Staff

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, in partnership with eXtension, has two new school IPM online learning modules to help the IPM Coordinator educate teachers about school IPM in TX. The first module covers

what school IPM is, why staff should be concerned, chain of command and a few other necessary components for Texans. The second module is designed for teachers who have gardens, ag science classes or others who work outdoors and with volunteers. Both modules are free but [registration](#) is required.

For more information, go to:

<http://schoolipm.blogspot.com/2013/06/new-school-ipm-online-learning-modules.html>

[http://www.ipminstitute.org/school\\_ipm\\_2015/index.htm](http://www.ipminstitute.org/school_ipm_2015/index.htm)

<http://schoolipm.tamu.edu>

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## 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. Look for the webinars highlighted below.

**July 23**, 3-4 p.m. Eastern: [Integrated Pest Management \(IPM\): Protecting Children in Schools from Pests and Pesticides](#)

**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>

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## 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](#).

July 10, 2013, 4-5 p.m. Eastern / 1-2 p.m. Arizona: [School Health Guidelines to Promote Healthy Eating and Physical Activity \(CDC\)](#)

July 23, 2013, 3-4 p.m. Eastern / 12-1 p.m. Arizona: [Integrated Pest Management \(IPM\): Protecting Kids from Pests and Pesticides \(EPA\)](#) [Sensible Steps to Healthier School Environments Webinar Series](#)

July 24, 2013, 4-5 p.m. Eastern / 1-2 p.m. Arizona: [Recycle-Bowl Competition and Educational Resources \(KAB\)](#)

July 30, 2013, 2-3 p.m. Eastern / 11-12 p.m. Arizona: [Green Cleaning Award for Schools and Universities \(HSC\)](#)

July 31, 2013, 2-3 p.m. Eastern / 11-12 p.m. Arizona: [Engaging Parents to Foster Healthier, More Successful Students \(CDC\)](#)

**July 8-11, 2013: “Going Buggy” 4 day camp, 9-11am age 6-9 year olds; 2-4pm age 9-12 year olds  
[Arizona Museum of Natural History](#), 53 N MacDonald, Mesa, AZ 85201**

This is a 4 consecutive day camp that will be held in two sessions each day. Subject will include bugs from prehistoric times, to the present time through a series of demonstrations, crafts, and creative activities. Kids will learn about bugs and IPM concepts. Read more:  
<http://apps.mesaaz.gov/news/ArticleView.aspx?id=37771>

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>

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