

School Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Newsletter – May 2014



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School Smart IPM: The Sensible Way to Work the Bugs Out

This blog is written by our very own Entomologist Dr. Dawn Gouge and has been published on the National Parent Teacher Association website (<http://onevoice.pta.org/?p=4231>)

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One of the funniest things I recall from my youth was my Mum's reaction to the imposing Giant House Spiders that cohabited with us in our lovely English duplex. Now the spiders can reach a fairly good size of 2-3 inches, and they are fabulously agile and rather fast moving when they want to be. But back to my Mum: the alert would usually begin with ear piercing shrieks and the sound of thrown slippers, newspapers, and the slamming of doors (please note "a tactical withdrawal is the most desirable form of retreat" Sun Tzu, the Art of War). Our Mum, a 5 foot, 95 pound protector would dash back and forth hammering the offending 0.05 ounce arachnid into oblivion, or at least into several pieces. Our Dad would then be given a list of directives (get that old wood out of the house, fix the backdoor sweep, etc.). Little did we know, but my sister and I were witnessing Integrated Pest Management in action.



Integrated Pest Management (commonly referred to as IPM) is the most effective, safest and most cost effective way to manage pests of all kinds. As a professional I am an advocate of IPM, as a tax payer I am an enthusiast of IPM, and as a parent I am nothing short of fanatical.



I have been an entomologist for nearly 19.1 years, and a parent for 12.7 years. I undoubtedly know a good deal more about bugs than my own young offspring. But I do know a great deal about "what's good for her" and I am passionate about my daughter's physical health.

Working to facilitate the implementation of school IPM has been one of the most thrilling adventures of my professional life. Educating on the simple ways pest

infestations can be prevented or safely eliminated has empowered partnering school districts across the nation to reduce pest incidence and pesticide use by as much as 93%, making learning environments safer for students, faculty, and staff.

Because protecting children's health is a top national priority, EPA recommends schools use IPM – a Smart, Sensible, and Sustainable approach to pest management. Smart because IPM creates a safer and healthier learning environment by managing pests and reducing children's exposure to pests and pesticides. Sensible since practical strategies are used to reduce sources of food, water, and shelter for pests on campus. Sustainable because the emphasis is on prevention that makes it an economically advantageous approach. Simply put, [EPA supports school IPM](#); national IPM organizations [educate on IPM](#); and state land-grant universities [facilitate the implementation of school IPM](#).

To read or comment on the original blog, and for more information, please visit <http://onevoice.pta.org/?p=4231>

News Advisory - Asthma Awareness Month Resources

Environmental News From EPA Region 7, by David Bryan.

Asthma is a serious, sometimes life-threatening respiratory disease that affects the quality of life for millions of Americans. Although there is no cure for asthma yet, asthma can be controlled through medical treatment and management of environmental triggers.

May is Asthma Awareness Month. This is part of EPA's ongoing effort to increase public awareness of the asthma epidemic and partner with thousands of organizations taking action to get asthma under control in communities across the nation. EPA promotes scientific understanding of environmental asthma triggers and management through research, education and community-focused outreach. During Asthma Awareness Month, EPA encourages state and local asthma programs to hold community-based events to increase awareness of asthma triggers and the successful strategies for addressing asthma disparities.

Asthma afflicts about 20 million Americans, including 6.3 million children. Since 1980, the biggest growth in asthma cases has been in children under 5. Some of the most common indoor asthma triggers include secondhand smoke, dust mites, mold, cockroaches and other pests, household pets, and combustion byproducts.

"Improving air quality is one of EPA's top priorities, and our commitment is stronger than ever during Asthma Awareness Month," said Karl Brooks, EPA Region 7 administrator. "By working together with diverse partners in communities across our four-state region, we are making a real difference in the lives of people dealing with asthma."

As part of Asthma Awareness Month, EPA Region 7 has put together a number of resources you might use to promote asthma awareness in your news stories and features.

Program References/Resources:

- General Asthma Information: <http://www.epa.gov/asthma/index.html>

- EPA Asma en Espanol: www.epa.gov/iaq/espanol/asma.html
- National Asthma Awareness Month: <http://www.epa.gov/asthma/awareness.html>
- Children's Asthma Campaign - Fight Asthma, Learn More campaign: <http://noattacks.org/>
- Student Curriculum: Recipes for Healthy Kids and a Healthy Environment: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/ochp/ochpweb.nsf/content/curriculum.htm>
- Publications and Resources: <http://www.epa.gov/asthma/publications.html>
- Multimedia Resources (videos, audio, podcasts): <http://www.epa.gov/asthma/multimedia.html>
- Federal Partners and Expert Contacts: <http://www.epa.gov/asthma/partners.html>
- National Asthma Control Initiative (NACI): <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/prof/lung/asthma/naci/>
- Indoor AirRepair Kit, Allergy and Asthma Network/Mothers of Asthmatics - for home, school and play: <http://www.aanma.org/publication/indoor-air-repair-kit/>
- National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) Data: <http://www.cdc.gov/asthma/nhis/default.htm>

New Publications and IPM Insights

New Extension Publication on Bed Bugs

The University of Arizona College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) Cooperative Extension has recently published a new publication on bed bugs. <http://extension.arizona.edu/sites/extension.arizona.edu/files/pubs/az1625.pdf>

New Extension Publication on School IPM

The University of Arizona College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) Cooperative Extension has recently published a new publication on school IPM <http://extension.arizona.edu/sites/extension.arizona.edu/files/pubs/az1579.pdf>

New Video Shows How to Manage Bed Bugs without Harmful Pesticides

The Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP) recently released a very informative 12-minute video on how to manage bed bugs without using harmful (and often ineffective) pesticide foggers or sprays. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EQ1I2I2duD8>

Newly Developed Biopesticide Effectively Kills Bed Bugs

A team led by Nina Jenkins, Penn State University, has found that the fungal biopesticide I93-825 spray is effective against bed bugs. <http://www.northeastipm.org/4-30-14-bed-bugs>

Schools Find Online School IPM Best Management Practices Worth the Investment in Time and Training

For IPM in schools, we continue to see good project outcomes: Ninety-three percent of participants in trainings and focus groups felt that the investment of time and training for IPM

best management practices would be worth the effort for schools.
<http://www.northeastipm.org/4-30-14-schools>

Avitrol Label Revisions

Periodically, product registrations are re-reviewed by EPA in a process called “re-registration”. The intent of a re-registration by EPA is to ensure that products meet current day environmental and scientific standards and no new risks have developed since the original registration. The product Avitrol (4-aminopyridine) started this regulatory process in the early 2000’s and only recently completed the procedure.

The re-registrations process resembles an original pesticide application. The manufacturer is required to submit a data package and studies to the EPA that support safety, quality and, in this case, efficacy of the product. Once the EPA completes their review of the data, they ultimately publish a Reregistration Eligibility Decision (“RED”). The RED outlines the different environmental and ecological risks posed by the product and, among other things, often recommends new or revised use restrictions and corresponding label language.

The RED for Avitrol was published in 2007, although new labels were not published by EPA until late last year on September 24, 2013. See the new labels on the EPA PPLS website <http://iaspub.epa.gov/apex/pesticides/f?p=PPLS:1>

Given public scrutiny and the sensitivity to dead and dying birds, the new label for Avitrol includes many more restrictions than the current labeling. For example, the new label requires a licensed applicator to remain at the treatment site while the product is exposed. After the application, the licensed applicator must remove all remaining bait as well as dead and dying birds.

A pesticide applicator has a legal obligation to follow the label on the package in his or her possession. Therefore, there will be a period of transition where both old and new labels are available through distribution channels. Always read and follow the label since *the label is the law*.

We have never found Avitrol to be a suitable product for use on or anywhere near school grounds because the birds can relocate the poison bait for many miles.

National Kids to Parks Day

Children, families, teachers, cities, towns, and parks are gearing up for this year's National Kids to Parks Day (KTP), a nationwide day of outdoor play organized by National Park Trust (NPT) in cooperation with a host of national collaborators. This year's KTP Day will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2014, the week before the official start of summer.

NPT is encouraging children across the country to explore their neighborhood parks and discover the history, nature and adventure right around the corner or just across town. Use [this website](#) to help you start your adventure.



Upcoming Webinars and Events

Attend Free Sessions of the [Green Strides Webinar Series](#). View archived webinars [here](#).

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.

May 8, 2014, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Eastern / 3:30-4:30 p.m. Arizona: [The Adventures of ECHO the Bat: A Project-based Lesson \(NASA\)](#)

May 12, 2014, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Eastern / 2:30-4:00 p.m. Arizona: [Robotics on a Budget: Engineering Design with Moving Parts \(NASA\)](#)

May 13, 2014, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Eastern / 2:30-3:30 p.m. Arizona: [Things That Go BOOM In the Air \(NASA\)](#)

May 14, 2014, 4:00-5:00 p.m. Eastern / 1:00-2:00 p.m. Arizona: [Bringing Rainforest Alliance to Your School \(Rainforest Alliance\)](#)

May 14, 2014, 4:00-5:00 p.m. Eastern / 1:00-2:00 p.m. Arizona: [Approaches for Effective Climate Change Communication \(NPS\)](#)

May 14, 2014, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Eastern / 2:30-3:30 p.m. Arizona: [Amusement Park Physics With a NASA Twist \(NASA\)](#)

May 15, 2014, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Eastern / 2:30-3:30 p.m. Arizona: [Seeing the World Without a Passport – Mission Geography \(NASA\)](#)

May 19, 2014, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Eastern / 3:30-4:30 p.m. Arizona: [Art and the Cosmic Connection \(NASA\)](#)

May 20, 2014, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Eastern / 3:30-4:30 p.m. Arizona: [Curiosity on Mars: The Search for Clues of Life \(NASA\)](#)

May 27, 2014, 6:30-7:45 p.m. Eastern / 3:30-4:45 p.m. Arizona: [Rockets 2 Race Cars Teacher Program at Kentucky Speedway \(NASA\)](#)

June 4, 2014, 6:30-7:45 p.m. Eastern / 3:30-4:45 p.m. Arizona: [Rockets 2 Race Cars Teacher Program at Kentucky Speedway \(NASA\)](#)

May 9, 2014, Friday: [23rd Annual Desert Horticulture Conference](#), Casino Del Sol Resort, 5655 W Valencia Road, Tucson, AZ 85757

The Desert Horticulture Conference is the premier annual conference for all members of the Green Industry: landscape architects, designers, growers, retailers, contractors, maintenance personnel, suppliers and educators. Presenting timely and research-based information relevant for designing, building, maintaining, and producing plants for urban landscapes in the arid Southwest. Please visit the website at <http://cals.arizona.edu/deserthort/>.

May 13, 2014, Tuesday, 8:00-4:00 p.m.: [Pima County Parks and Recreation](#), Pima County Administrative Office, 3500 West River Road, Tucson, AZ 85741

The class will cover topics in turf management, weed control and pest management as applicable to parks, recreational and right-of-way areas. 6 hours of CEUs will be awarded. For more details, contact Paul Baker (pbaker@ag.arizona.edu), Urban Entomologist, Department of Entomology, University of Arizona, Tucson.

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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