

# School & Home Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Newsletter – October 2015



COLLEGE OF  
AGRICULTURE  
& LIFE SCIENCES  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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## Resources to Promote, Practice & Expand School IPM in the West

Both pests and pesticides are potentially harmful for kids and adults in schools. Common school pests, such as the German cockroaches or mice, can carry disease causing pathogens and trigger asthma and allergy reactions. Children are at greater risk of harm from pests and pesticides due to their behavior – for example, playing on the floor, and because of their developing systems.

That's why the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), along with many state agencies and IPM organizations stress the need for schools to practice Integrated Pest Management. An increasing number of states have laws that mandate IPM use in school and/or child-care settings.



As school is back in session and students are back in classrooms for 7 hours a day, it's a good time to spotlight some of the IPM resources available for school districts.

"We want schools to be safe learning environments for children and staff, and help school districts manage pests effectively and reduce pesticide use," explained Carrie Foss, the urban IPM director at Washington State University. (*From the Western Front, October Newsletter of the Western IPM Center.*)



Read more and see the resources:

<http://westernipm.org/index.cfm/ipm-in-the-west/communities/school-ipm-protects-kids-from-pests-and-pesticides/> (*From the Western Front, October Newsletter of the Western IPM Center.*)

### **Consider attending a University of Arizona IPM Workshop this fall**

**Signature Program Initiative – School and Home IPM Workshops.** Presented by **University of Arizona (UA) faculty and sponsored by UA Cooperative Extension.** Arizona Office of Pest Management (OPM) CEUs will be granted to licensed pesticide applicators. But you do not have to be a pesticide applicator to attend.

Dates are as follows:

- October 26, Monday, Pima County Cooperative Extension Office, Tucson, AZ.
- October 29, Thursday, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension Office, Phoenix, AZ.
- November 10, Tuesday, Pinal County Cooperative Extension Office, Casa Grande, AZ.

The workshops are a part of the Arizona State Signature Program Initiative Project: Enabling Schools to Practice and Implement Integrated Pest Management. **Topics include:** Bed bugs in schools and homes; Head lice (super lice); Mosquitoes and related disease threats; Stinging outdoor pests; Pesticide safety; and Turf insects. **This workshop is for:** Facilities managers, Buildings and grounds managers and staff, Food service staff, Nurses, Custodians, Administrators, IPM Coordinators, Residents, Pest Management Professionals, Master gardeners and interested citizens.

Event details and to register for any of the classes contact Dawn H. Gouge, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, [dhgouge@email.arizona.edu](mailto:dhgouge@email.arizona.edu).

**Spaces are limited and the first 2 events are now at 75% capacity.**

Resources regarding the upcoming IPM Workshop events:  
<http://cals.arizona.edu/apmc/schoolIPM.html#events>

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## Fig Beetles on Your Fruit Tree

Fig beetles are also called figeater beetles or green fruit beetles, and the adults are found throughout summer in the southwest. They don't just love figs though; they feed on pollen, nectar, and flower petals, but their favorite food is fruit.

Fig beetles are amusingly clumsy flier, and it's a wonder they are able to navigate at all. They can be seen to crash into walls, poles, trees and people, but when they do make their target, they rapidly become nestled deep in the fig tree, and can be found sucking the juice out of an over-ripened fig. They can't bite into hard, immature fruits but love soft, squishy, super ripe fruits, especially those that have already been nibbled by birds.

**Management recommendations:** We suggest you simply enjoy these creatures, but if you absolutely cannot tolerate the beautiful green giants, remove leaf litter and other organic matter from the soil surface in spring to starve larvae. Also, allow the soil surface to dry out and harden to imprison the adults before they emerge. Flood irrigate to destroy eggs and young larvae; they cannot tolerate saturated soil for over 2 days. **No chemical controls are recommended.**



Fig beetles on the red fruit of the prickly pear. Image: Chris Tanz

If you would like to know more, please view: <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r261300511.html>.

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## The Buzz on Research

The University of Arizona entomologists help to educate the public on insect-related issues through outreach and research. The Pima County Cooperative Extension and UA Insect Collections work together to educate and overcome stigmas about the bugs that inhabit our Sonoran desert landscape.

Please watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1dNrtgt-bxl&feature=youtu.be>

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## Bed Bug Battle – We Want to Hear From You

The University of Arizona and several partnering research institutions are working to battle the bed bug resurgence in the United States. Researchers hope to determine the real impact and social cost of bed bugs, the risks to individuals and society, as well as the significant causes of infestations.

We hope you will complete an online bed bug survey. This voluntary survey should take about ten minutes. The survey is available in English and Spanish. There is no compensation available for your participation. Your answers are anonymous and confidential while you contribute information that will help us battle the pesky parasites.

**Who should take this survey? Everyone!**

English version of Bed Bug survey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DGLQS52>

Spanish version of Bed Bug survey: <https://es.surveymonkey.com/s/F5NZXJK>

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## Upcoming Webinars and Events

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

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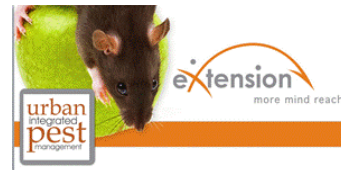
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For more information about the EPA Schools program, visit:  
<http://www.epa.gov/schools/>

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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## 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).



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