



Pests and Pesticides in Child-serving Facilities: An IPM Newsletter

School IPM Advisory Board Meets in Nashville

By Karen Vail and Pat Barnwell, UT Entomology & Plant Pathology

A group of interested stakeholders met July 28th to discuss the current state of IPM use in Tennessee's schools and to steer the program towards its future direction. A summary of the meeting's minutes will be posted to the school IPM web site at http://schoolipm.utk.edu/success_results.html after August 8th.



Brainstorming and ranking responses at the advisory board meeting. Credit: UT E&PP

We started the meeting with participant introductions and a summary of our efforts to promote school IPM in Tennessee <http://schoolipm.utk.edu/documents/vailesa2013patver.pdf>. We next discussed amending [Suggested Guidelines for Managing Pests in Tennessee's Schools: Adopting Integrated Pest Management](#) for use in conjunction with the Industrial, Institutional, Structural and Health Related Pest Manual, PB 1732, as a supplemental training guide for pest management professionals (PMPs) working in Tennessee schools. Lastly noted was a grant proposal to work on the ecology of the vectors responsible for La Crosse encephalitis. Incidence of La Crosse encephalitis has increased in the Southern Appalachian region and researchers would like to determine what factors have contributed to the rise. If the grant is funded, the school IPM program would work with school facility managers to inform them of practices to reduce mosquito breeding habitat. The team would also develop mosquito prevention and control educational materials that would be distributed to students and parents. If a LaCrosse Virus rapid detection assay is developed, the school IPM team will work with school personnel to develop a sustainable monitoring program.

After reviewing the goals of and tools provided by the University of Tennessee Extension School Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program (see agenda below), we asked the stakeholders present to answer six questions. The questions were asked with the purpose of improving adoption of the school IPM program in all schools by 2015 in accordance with the National PMSP's (Pest Management Strategic Plan).

Special Point of Interest



Yellowjacket adults are common around dumpsters this time of year. Credit: Stephanie Gil, LSU Arthropod Museum, Department of Entomology

“The exterior waste refuse receptacle (dumpster) and surrounding area is often one of the most pest vulnerable areas of a typical school—especially during the warm weather months.” Bobby Corrigan

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Here are the responses to the questions and some of the main points that I took away from the advisory board meeting:

According to stakeholder rankings, more schools aren't using IPM because they are not required to report to any agency or authority; they believe budgetary restraints are preventing their participation; and with the current state of upheaval in the education system nationwide, pest management is a low priority.

Stakeholders indicated that to encourage schools to participate in IPM, record keeping and IPM should be required; a greater emphasis is needed from Tennessee government; and pest management professionals should be encouraged to obtain certification in school IPM.

They waffled on whether a subcategory 7 school IPM certification of pest management technicians would increase the use of IPM in schools with most points going towards the "possibly" response followed by the importance of schools using IPM in their bid specifications.

Pest control operators were seen as a group we've neglected to include in the process as were parent groups as enablers to administrators and school nurses. The suggestion was made to educate stakeholders, but to mandate the adoption of school IPM if education does not work.

Needed content for the newsletters included up-to-date on new problems, concerns and issues as well as reporting on the work with demonstrations. Our web site should include a video of a successful Tennessee school IPM program and we need links to the TDA and Pesticide Safety Education Program web sites.

What will our next actions be?

1. Confirm at least 3 demonstration schools for 2014/2015.
2. Follow up with Kathy Booker, TDA, regarding the status of the recommendation of the Tennessee Pesticide Advisory Boards for a subcategory 7 certification. If creating a subcategory is not probable, we will explore developing a UT school IPM certification for the pest management professional.
3. Write school IPM newsletter articles for the "neglected" groups, i.e, parents in parent/teacher organizations, nurses in the Tennessee Association of School Nurses's and science teachers in the Tennessee Science Teachers Association.
4. Add material on the school IPM demonstrations to the UT school IPM web site.
5. Contact UTIA Marketing and Communication Services department to produce a video on a successful IPM demonstration.

Webinars of Interest

By Karen Vail

School Community Mosquito IPM Webinar

As we mentioned in the article above, the mosquito-borne illness, LaCrosse Encephalitis, which affects children 15 or younger, is now more common in the southern Appalachians than anywhere else in the US. Chikungunya, a virus new to the Americas as of last year, has been detected in several Tennessee counties. If local infections are detected there will be great concern from the community at large. Let's be prepared. Please take the time to listen to the EPA-Hosted Webinar on "School Community Mosquito IPM". Go to <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/405236737> to register for this webinar to be held Wednesday, August 20, 2014 from 2:00 to 3:00 pm EDT.

Kudzu Bug Takes Over the Southeastern U.S./Brown Marmorated Stinkbug -- All Bad

Register at <https://learn.extension.org/events/1379#.U-PSXGMvdyJ> for this webinar on invasives that are plant pests and also structural pests because they overwinter in homes and other buildings.

Dumpsters: a Potential Pest Magnet

Pat Barnwell and Karen Vail

Bobby Corrigan states, "The exterior waste refuse receptacle (dumpster) and surrounding area is often one of the most pest vulnerable areas of a typical school—especially during the warm weather months." Pest vulnerable areas are those that provide food, water, and shelter for pests. Odors emanating from a dumpster can attract several species of flies, ants, cockroaches, bees and wasps, mice, rats, and birds.

Some things to think about to reduce the pest pressure around the dumpster area:

- Use high quality heavy-duty garbage bags when food waste, especially wet food waste, will be placed into the bags.
- If food waste is wet consider wrapping it in newspaper or other absorbent material before placing in bags.
- When overloaded bags are stressed, seams burst. Spillage occurs as bags are transported to the dumpster or rest within the dumpster. Divide heavy loads or double bag the garbage. Leave enough room to tie the bag.
- Refrain from tossing bags into the dumpster. Tossed bags can split or tear as they hit the side or edges of the dumpster resulting in a mess around the exterior. Residue from the damaged bags oozes onto the walls. Odor from the spillage can linger for weeks and tempt pests to feast on the residue.
- At this time of year odor attracts yellowjackets and custodians become afraid of going near the dumpster. Bags continue to be thrown and more spillage attracts more pests.
- Plan to clean dumpsters at least several times a year based on odor and spillage accumulation. Empty them often enough to prevent overflow.
- Place dumpster on a hard cleanable surface, and clean the surface as necessary to prevent a buildup of waste. Rodents and other pests can burrow under dumpsters placed on soil or turf.
- Locate dumpsters ideally 50 ft. from doors or receiving areas. Invest in a cart to make transport easy.
- Keep the doors and rain cover closed to prevent rain as well as pests such as birds out. Water accumulating in the bottom of the dumpster increases the chance that flies will breed. Water also causes rust that will eventually erode holes in the dumpster. If the cover is warped or the dumpster damaged, ask the company that services the dumpster for another dumpster.
- Screen or plug the drain hole to keep rodents out.



Open rain covers on dumpsters are an invitation to pests Photo: Clay Scherer, <http://schoolipm.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Reference: Reducing Pest Activity Around Schools Via the Proper Handling of Food Waste, Bobby Corrigan, http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/schoolipm/AI/PDF%20Files/Trashtips5_9.pdf

UT YEAH Contact Information:

Karen Vail, Ph.D., Professor,
Urban IPM Specialist, UT Extension
370 Plant Biotechnology Building
2505 E J Chapman Drive
Knoxville, TN 37996-4560
ph: (865) 974-7138
fax: (865) 974-4744
email: kvail@utk.edu
web: <http://schoolipm.utk.edu>
<http://eppserver.ag.utk.edu/personnel/Vail/vail.htm>

Martha Keel, Ph.D., Professor
Housing & Environmental Health Specialist,
UT Extension
218 Morgan Hall
ph: (865) 974-8197
fax: (865) 974-5370
email: mkeel@utk.edu
web <http://utyeah.utk.edu>

James P. Parkman, Ph.D.
Former UTIA IPM Coordinator
370 Plant Biotechnology Building
ph: (865) 974-7135
fax: (865) 974-4744
email: jparkman@utk.edu

Mary Rogge, Ph.D., Assc. Professor
UT College of Social Work
225 Henson Hall
ph: (865) 974-7500
fax: (865) 974-4803
email: mrogge@utk.edu



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<http://tinyurl.com/schoolipmFB>

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For more information about IPM in Tennessee schools and other facilities, or to view past issues of *Pests and Pesticides in Child-serving Facilities*, please visit schoolipm.utk.edu.

NATIONAL IPM INFORMATION

eXtension's Pest Management In and Around Structures: Urban Integrated Pest Management
<http://www.extension.org/Urban%20Integrated%20Pest%20Management>

National School IPM
schoolipm.ifas.ufl.edu/

IPM in Schools Texas
schoolipm.tamu.edu/resources.htm

IPM Institute of North America
www.ipminstitute.org/

School IPM PMSP—all schools IPM by 2015
http://www.ipminstitute.org/school_ipm_2015.htm

National Pest Management Association IPM
www.whatisipm.org/

EPA schools
www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/schoolipm/index.html

For further information about the IPM program at your school or in your county, contact your county Extension Agent or the school IPM Coordinator. For county agent contact information, please visit www.agriculture.utk.edu/personnel/districts_counties/default.asp

Precautionary Statement

To protect people and the environment, pesticides should be used safely. This is everyone's responsibility, especially the user. Read and follow label directions carefully before you buy, mix, apply, store or dispose of a pesticide. According to laws regulating pesticides, they must be used only as directed by the label.

Disclaimer

This publication contains pesticide recommendations that are subject to change at any time. The recommendations in this publication are provided only as a guide. It is always the pesticide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. The label always takes precedence over the recommendations found in this publication.

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