



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

### Webinars and Newsletters!!!!

Karen M. Vail

We've been very fortunate that a number of FREE pest- or school –related webinars have been recently presented or are planned. Some of you missed presentations because of previous commitments, so I wanted you to ensure you had the opportunity to watch them. Here's a list of these seminars and their links.

#### Webinars

##### *Bats and Bat Management Webinar*

Recording available at

<https://connect.extension.iastate.edu/p7f9r4sruh2>

##### *Protect Your Loved Ones From Fire Ants*

Recording available at

<http://www.extension.org/pages/66408/dont-bug-me-webinar-series-2013>

##### *IPM in Child Care Centers*

Wednesday, May 15, 2013, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM EDT

**Space is limited.**

Reserve your Webinar seat now at:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/265423504>

##### *Webinar on Protecting Gardens from Moles, Voles, & More*

May 17, 11 to 12N am central time

<https://connect.extension.iastate.edu/wildlifedmg>

##### *Get Rid of Those Bed Bugs*

June 7, 2 pm eastern

<http://www.extension.org/pages/66408/dont-bug-me-webinar-series-2013>

#### Newsletter of interest

##### *When is a pesticide not part of the school IPM program?*

Janet Hurley and Don Renchie

<http://schoolipm.tamu.edu/2013/05/08/school-pest-newsvolume-12-issue-3-may-2013/>

### Special Points of Interest

> **Webinars and newsletters!**

> **To prevent coming back to a pest-infested school, follow these**

"You can drive yourself crazy by trying to stay in compliance with IPM; or you can do IPM and automatically fall into compliance."

Tim Boyle, New Jersey School IPM Program Coordinator, during a recent conference call presentation to the Northeast School IPM Working Group.

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## Reduce Pests in Schools Over the Summer Break!

To prevent coming back to a pest-infested school, follow these steps.

By Jennifer Snyder & Dawn Gouge. Modified by Karen Vail

### Administrators

- Facilities managers should have a plan in place for garbage and recycling over the summer. Inspect dumpsters to determine if they need to be repaired or replaced. Schedule a cleaning of dumpsters. Ensure recycling bins are emptied and cleaned.
- If there is a cut-off date beyond which classroom garbage and recycling will *not* be collected, make sure the teachers and office staff are informed.
- Ensure the staff responsible for the Lost & Found appropriate the items and clear the area out. Cockroaches, mice, and several other pests are commonly found among neglected Lost & Found items.

### Teachers

- As you are cleaning your classroom, take measures to prevent brown recluse bites. Wear long sleeves and use gloves. Don't reach blindly into a drawer. Look first! For more information about preventing brown recluse bites see ([http://schoolipm.utk.edu/documents/newsletters/march\\_2011.pdf](http://schoolipm.utk.edu/documents/newsletters/march_2011.pdf))
- Now is a good time to remind pest management (report pests in the pest sighting log) if you have seen brown recluse spiders or other pests in your classroom. If pesticides are needed, they can be applied while the children are gone.
- If you have food items (macaroni, popcorn kernels, beans, etc.) that are art supplies, either remove or store them in plastic or glass containers with tightly sealed lids.
- Get rid of cardboard!!!!!! Use this opportunity to recycle ALL CORRUGATED CARDBOARD and substitute plastic, sealable storage bins for cardboard. Cockroaches are transported and live inside the corrugation of cardboard boxes.
- Make sure the garbage and recycling bins in the classroom are emptied before you leave for the summer! Don't return to a classroom full of flies or cockroaches.



Male and female brown recluse spiders on a sticky trap. UT E&PP



Cockroaches live contentedly in the seals of refrigerator and microwave doors. Appliances need to be cleaned regularly, and refrigerators emptied before breaks. To increase accountability, consider drawing up schedule for lounge staff. Snyder & Gouge, U of AZ

- Report leaky faucets and watermarks in ceilings and walls to maintenance.
- It's best to remove dry food, snacks, etc. from the classroom over the summer. Take them home with you, give them to students, or throw them out. (During the school year, store dry snacks in containers with lids.)
- Remove classroom plants, pets and pet food.
- Give yourself an amnesty day on accumulated "stuff". Haven't used it in two years? Recycle it. Clutter is one of the main attractants for classroom pests. If you find pesticides in your classroom, make sure you dispose of them appropriately.
- Teacher's lounge: open the refrigerator and take a good look at every item – is it yours? Take it home. Is it expired or no longer recognizable? Don't hesitate...toss it!

## Custodians

- Report leaky faucets, wet spots, or water damage in ceilings and walls (indoors and outside).
- Hang mops and brooms “head-up” on wall-mounted racks. Ants, crickets, and roaches will feed on the organic residue built up in mops and brooms. Flies, spiders and cockroaches will breed, feed, and take shelter in mop and broom heads resting on the floor.
- Make sure all trash and recycling is removed from classrooms. *All* trash – even paper recycling -- contains something pests want, so don’t make it easy for them and they won’t hang around.
- Arrange for you, or other designated staff, to flush all toilets and run water in all drains (including floor drains in kitchen area) at least every two weeks. It is well worth the effort! This keeps the P-traps from drying up, and American cockroaches from gaining access via drains. *A building-wide infestation of roaches could be the result of not regularly performing this simple and effective action.*



American Roach.  
K Vail, UT E&PP

## IPM Specialists

- As pest managers, you are diagnosticians of pest problems for your district and naturally fall into an educator role. Share this newsletter with school principals and encourage them to pass it along to staff. Use archived issues to help your educational efforts. If school staff does their part, it makes your job much more efficient.



Keep a vegetation-free zone next to school. Snyder & Gouge, U of AZ.

## Grounds Crew

A walk around the premises will reveal pest proofing opportunities. Allow yourself to take note of things you’re normally too busy to notice -- or unable to with students present.

- Irrigation/drip lines for plants no longer present and sprinkler heads too large for the job will waste water and create mosquito habitat.
- Prune vegetation a path-width away from buildings. Overhanging trees in particular provide pests an easy access to the indoors.
- Do door sweeps need to be replaced? Are pipe/wire/conduit penetrations through foundation walls sealed well? Are vents screened?

## Kitchen staff

- Before heading out for the summer, remove as much corrugated cardboard from the pantry and kitchen area as possible. Adult and immature German cockroaches can be found in the corrugation columns and are brought into schools this way. These cockroaches in particular thrive in kitchen environments and can prove challenging to eradicate.
- Kitchen managers: check to make sure the kitchen floor will receive a thorough spray-washing to remove grease and dirt build-up – **especially in corners and UNDER APPLIANCES!!** Pests love the food and grease build-up in hard-to-reach corners. Spray or steam washing is ideally done on a monthly basis (at a minimum twice each school year).
- As you prepare for the start of the school year, inspect food items, especially those in cardboard boxes, for pests when they are delivered. If they come infested, return to vendor before storing them in your pantry. Toss cardboard boxes and store appropriate items in sealable plastic.



German cockroach. [www.extension.org](http://www.extension.org)

## Students

- Older students will typically clean out their lockers, whereas younger ones may have things stored and tucked away in cubbies, desks, etc. Students can help take responsibility for a healthy school by removing clutter and any stored food, and by tidying the classroom in preparation for breaks.

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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](http://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/](http://schoolipm.ifas.ufl.edu/)

IPM in Schools Texas  
[schoolipm.tamu.edu/resources.htm](http://schoolipm.tamu.edu/resources.htm)

IPM Institute of North America  
[www.ipminstitute.org/](http://www.ipminstitute.org/)

School IPM PMSP—all schools IPM by 2015  
[http://www.ipminstitute.org/school\\_ipm\\_2015.htm](http://www.ipminstitute.org/school_ipm_2015.htm)

National Pest Management Association IPM  
[www.whatisipm.org/](http://www.whatisipm.org/)

EPA schools  
[www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/schoolipm/index.html](http://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](http://www.agriculture.utk.edu/personnel/districts_counties/default.asp)

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### 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.

Use of trade or brand names in this publication is for clarity and information; it does not imply approval of the product to the exclusion of others that may be of similar, suitable composition, nor does it guarantee or warrant the standard of the product. The author(s), the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture and University of Tennessee Extension assume no liability resulting from the use of these recommendations.

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