



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

UT Seeks West TN Schools to Conduct Fire Ant and IPM Demonstrations

By Karen M. Vail



Fire ants should be managed before they move their mounds next to the structure. Credit: UT Extension, Houston Co.

We are seeking one school district with fire ant management needs in two TN Department of Education rural school regions, Northwest and Southwest, to participate in a hands-on school IPM demonstration. In 2009/2010, we conducted school IPM demonstrations in Cumberland, Rhea and Moore counties and others are currently underway in Blount (Maryville), Johnson and Humphreys counties. In the 2002 UT school survey, ants/fire ants were the third most frequent pest reported and tied for

second in the most troublesome category. According to the 2008 school IPM online survey results, cockroaches and rodents were the most frequent pest problem. Although ants/fire ants were the 3rd most frequent pest, they were, by far, the most troublesome with 63% of



Mouse feces found during an inspection of a FCS classroom. Credit: UT E&PP

respondents indicating so. We'd like to address the fire ant problem by including several schools in a fire ant management demonstration. We will conduct both an indoor pest management and fire ant management demonstration at the same schools. If you have a school with a moderate to severe fire ant problem and would like to be included in the school IPM demonstrations, please contact Pat Barnwell at pbarnwel@utk.edu or 865-974-2711.



School inspection during an IPM workshop. Credit: UT E&PP

Special points of interest:

- > TSPMA Meeting June 13-16, 2011
- > Manage Fire Ants Now!
- > Pest-Proof Prior to Summer Break

The end of the school year (the end of May) is an ideal time for the first fire ant bait application because the temperature is right and the kids aren't in school, thus their risk of pesticide exposure is reduced.

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Attend *The Role of Maintenance Professionals is Key to School IPM Success* session at the Tennessee School Plant Management Association (TSPMA) Annual Conference and Trade Fair, June 13, 2011

Music Road Hotel, 303 Henderson Chapel Road Pigeon Forge, Tennessee 37863

Please attend the session on the role the maintenance professional plays in a successful IPM program from 11:05—12:00 on June 13, 2011. Pest identifications handbooks will be distributed throughout the session for correctly answered questions.

More information on the conference can be found at : <http://www.tspma.com/tspma-annual-conference-registration-members-and-vendors>



Manage Fire Ants Twice a Year!

By Karen M. Vail

Please see our publication at <http://schoolipm.utk.edu/SchoolIPMsite/wwwroot/School%20Sample%20Site/resources.htm> for details on fire ant management around schools.

We recommend broadcasting a fire ant bait twice a year to suppress fire ant populations. Temperatures should be in the 70s and 80s (F) when the bait is applied. The end of the school year (the end of May) is an ideal time for the first fire ant bait application because the temperature is right and the kids aren't in school, thus their risk of pesticide exposure is reduced.



A baseball field with over 27 mounds poses a sting risk to the players. Credit: UT E&PP



Using a chest spreader to apply fire ant bait.
Credit: UT Extension



Use an electric seeder to spread fire ant bait over areas larger than 1 acre. Credit: UT E&PP.

Pest Proof Prior to Summer Break!

By Jennifer Snyder & Dawn Gouge. Modified by Karen Vail

Summer break is upon us, and unfortunately pests don't take vacations. In fact, the warmth and moisture of summer will increase the number of insects, spiders and other potential pests. To avoid outbreaks in your classroom, kitchen, or school office this summer, follow these simple pest-proofing guidelines for your space. Your school's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program works when everyone embraces their unique role...

Administrators

- Inform your staff that you support the IPM approach to managing pests – which means sharing this pest press or circulating a memo with this information (electronic copies available at <http://schoolipm.utk.edu/>). Implementing these measures will improve the structural integrity of your buildings, create a cleaner school environment, and a healthier learning environment.
- Facilities managers should have a plan in place for garbage and recycling over the summer. If there is a cut-off date beyond which classroom garbage and recycling will *not* be collected, make sure you communicate with principals to inform teachers and office staff. Infrequent trash collection schedules can generate serious pest problems.
- Principals: make sure 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

You do an amazing job teaching with limited resources and time. Unfortunately, pests seem to LOVE all things "teacher"! Lounges are high-use areas with minimal accountability. Classrooms often have significant space limitations resulting in clutter. Both areas are among the most pest-prone. **Fortunately, pest management is NOT another job -- it overlaps with what you are already doing.**

- If you have art supplies that dub as food items (macaroni, popcorn kernels, beans, etc.) store them in plastic or glass containers with tightly sealed lids instead of cardboard boxes...or better yet, discard food art altogether.
- When you're reorganizing (end of year, winter break, etc.) use the opportunity to recycle ALL CORRUGATED CARDBOARD and substitute storage bins for cardboard. Adult and immature cockroaches are transported inside the corrugations of cardboard boxes. Both roaches and crickets may also feed on the box materials.
- Classroom garbage and recycling may not be emptied regularly over the summer. Don't return to a classroom full of flies or cockroaches -- be aware of cut-off dates for classroom garbage and cleaning services.
- Report leaky faucets and watermarks in ceilings and walls to maintenance.
- Dry food, snacks, etc. should not be left in 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!



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

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 Arizona.

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.



German cockroach. www.extension.org

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).

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.

Modified from

Snyder, J.L. and D. H. Gouge. 2008. *Pest Proof for summer break!*
Pest Press, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, June/July issue.

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**Comments or questions
 on this newsletter?
 Contact kvail@utk.edu**

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 or utyeah.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

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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.

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