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Online Training Available

<https://pmu.ifas.ufl.edu/>
<https://eces.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Additional Resources

University of Florida
Extension Publications
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Pest Management in and
Around Structures
<http://www.eXtension.org/>

PMU Focus - Preparing for Swarm Season

By: Mike Bentley

As we celebrate the New Year, the industry in Florida is getting primed for the 2016 termite swarm season. In this newsletter we review helpful information on the timing of termite swarms as well as provide some useful tips on identifying conducive conditions around the home to help you and your clients avoid these costly pests.

Know Your Enemy

Termite swarming is the dispersal and mating behavior exhibited by winged *alates* attempting to start a new colony (Fig. 1). Florida's termite swarm season runs mid-December to early June, depending on the species of termite.

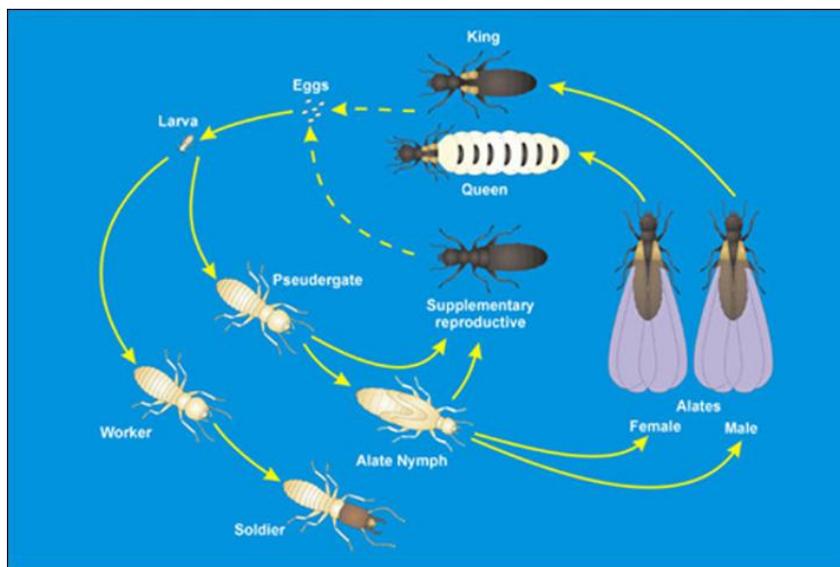


Fig 1. Subterranean termite lifecycle. Photo from: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ig097> Credit: University of Georgia.

Three groups of termites occur in Florida: subterranean, drywood, and dampwood termites. Subterranean termites nest in soil, are considered the most economically important termites, and typically swarm from mid-December to mid-May (Fig. 2). Drywood termites nest in dry wood, and usually swarm

from April to July. Dampwood termites infest damp wood, and swarm in late spring or summer but are not typically considered economically important.

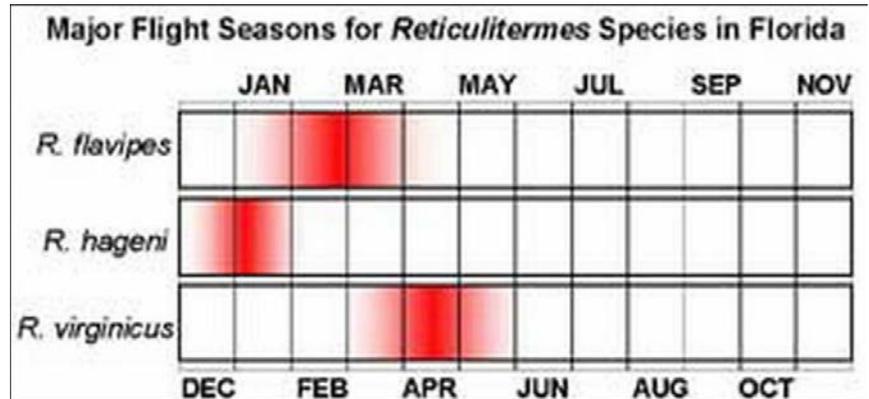


Fig 2. Flight seasons of three *Reticulitermes* species in Florida. Graphic by: Nan-Yao Su and R. H. Scheffrahn, University of Florida.

Identifying Conducive Conditions

Termites are attracted to environments that contain **moisture** and **cellulose**. The best way to prevent a termite infestation is to avoid or eliminate these conducive conditions. Here are some tips to identifying these concerns around the home.

- Building woodwork such as wood-siding should be a minimum of 6 inches above ground to prevent wood-to-ground contact.
- Any wood that contacts soil such as fence posts, deck poles, or other foundation structures should be commercially pressure treated and should not contact the house.
- Adjust sprinklers so they do not spray directly onto the structure.
- Channel all gutter down-spouts at least 2 feet away from the foundation of the home.
- Landscape plants should not be placed within 2 feet of the foundation.
- Remove old stumps, roots, downed branches, and other decaying vegetation from around the structure.
- Store firewood and excess building materials off of the ground and away from the house.

Click on these links for a comprehensive review of [termite identification](#), [termite damage identification](#), and [termite inspection](#) information.

We Need Your Ticks!

If you have more than 5 raisin-size, blood-fed female brown dog ticks, (*Rhipicephalus sanguineus*) we want them!

If you have ticks for us, please contact **Dr. Phillip E. Kaufman** (pkaufman@ufl.edu, (352) 273-3975) or **Lois Wood** (lwood@ufl.edu, 352-273-3981) for more information.



Fig. 2. Engorged female brown dog tick, about the size of a raisin.

Upcoming Training Opportunities:

Register now! Spring courses go fast!

We are planning to add a second GHP and Termite Masters earlier in the year. [State exam application](#) deadlines will be March 1 and September 1. Remember to put "PMU" across the top. [WDO course \(Mar 3-4, 2016\)](#) is also open!

January 2016 Offerings:

Foundations of Termite Management 101

Date: Jan 13-15, 2016; W-F (**7 seats remaining**)

Place: UF/IFAS Apopka MREC

Time: 8 AM-5 PM (W, TH); 8 AM-12 PM (F)

Registration fee: \$375

Learn how termites exploit over 50 building construction elements and how to treat them in a hands-on environment in 2-days instead of 2 years.

- Practice doing a DACS vehicle inspection and spill drill with Paul Mitola from DACS before a crisis occurs.
- Hear about the top 10 reasons technicians get in trouble and how to avoid them from Mark Ruff, industry attorney.
- Get more in-depth information on termite biology and behavior as well as product label navigation.

[Register here](#)

Foundations of Lawn and Ornamentals Pest Management 101

Date: Jan 27-29, 2016; W-F **(8 seats remaining)**

Place: UF/IFAS Apopka MREC

Time: 8 AM-5 PM (W, TH); 8 AM-12 PM (F)

Registration fee: \$375

- Learn about the general Florida licensing requirements for technicians and sales staff.
- Be able to pass DACS vehicle inspections, practice doing a spill drill, and learn the best ways to minimize risks before, during, and after an application.
- Learn to identify diseases, insects, and weeds in lawns and ornamentals and best management practices for their control.
- Gain hands on experience reading and understanding pesticide labels, calculating treatment areas, and calibrating application equipment for lawns, shrubs, and other ornamental plants.

[Register here](#)

Foundations of General Pest Management 101

Date: February 3-5, 2016; Wed-Fri **(3 seats remaining)**

Time: 8 AM-5 PM (W, TH); 8 AM-12 PM (F)

Place: UF/IFAS Apopka MREC, 2725 S. Binion Rd, Apopka, FL 32703-8504

Registration fee: \$375

Pest control matters. Cockroach allergen mitigation can be achieved with IPM.

- Study domestic and peridomestic cockroach species and how to control them as well as rodent, small fly, filth fly, occasional invaders, fire ant, and nuisance ant management.
- Review the labels of commonly used GHP products, practice pest inspections at PMU's house and develop treatment strategies focused on IPM.
- Do a vehicle inspection and spill drill with Paul Mitola from DACS.

[Register](#)

Click on "Register here" for course descriptions or go to <http://pmu.ifas.ufl.edu/courses> for more information

Learn more from IFAS



- UF/IFAS has Extension Offices in each of Florida's sixty-seven counties. We also have twelve Research and Education Centers (RECs) and Research and Demonstration Sites (RDSs).
- If you need help a great place to start is your local County Extension Office. With an office located in every county it has never been easier to partner with the University of Florida and your local County Government. To find an office near you please visit:
<http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/map/>