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In This Issue

- [Preventing Brown Dog Ticks](#)
- [PMU Focus – Brown Dog Ticks](#)
- [We Need Your Ticks!](#)
- [Upcoming Training Opportunities](#)
- [Learn More From IFAS](#)

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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 Year-End

We had a great year at PMU, adding streamlined L&O Foundations and Masters courses with more hands-on training, filling our GHP and Termite Masters courses, and seeing many new faces. We also are proud of our second-generation PMPs! Stay tuned for new PMU opportunities and more classes. We look forward to seeing you in 2016 and thank you for trusting us with your training! Have a happy and safe holiday! Your PMU Training Team

“Like” us on Facebook, “follow” us on Twitter, and “invite” us on LinkedIn

Want to hear short updates from us in between newsletters?
“Like” us on Facebook and “follow” us on Twitter!



Preventing Brown Dog Ticks

By: Mike Bentley

The brown dog tick, *Rhipicephalus sanguineus*, can be a serious pest in homes. If one female brown dog tick carrying eggs goes undetected, she can produce up to 5,000 more ticks in just a few weeks. This is the only tick that can complete its entire lifecycle indoors, making management particularly difficult. This month's newsletter will focus on the biology and early detection of the brown dog tick.



PMU Focus – Brown Dog Ticks

The brown dog tick is a “3-host tick” that requires a blood meal at each life stage (larva, nymph, and adult) before proceeding to the next developmental stage (Fig 1). Pet dogs are usually

the preferred host, but brown dog ticks can feed on other mammals, including humans. After feeding, the tick will drop off the host and hide while digesting the blood meal before returning to the host to feed again. Larvae are small and nearly colorless with only six legs (Fig. 1-1). Nymphs and adults are red-brown in color with eight legs (Fig. 1-2, 1-3, 1-4).



Fig 1. Life stages of the brown dog tick. 1. Larva, 2. Nymph, 3. Female adult, 4. Male adult. Photo: J. Newman.

Avoiding Brown Dog Ticks

The best management strategy for the brown dog tick is prevention. Here are tips to preventing brown dog ticks on the host, inside a home, or around a structure.

Inside the Home: Pets and Harborages

- Inspect pets before they enter the home. Areas to check frequently include the head, neck, inside and outside the ears, between toes, rear-end area, and under the tail.
- Maintain on-pet tick prevention methods as directed by your veterinarian.
- Do a daily "tick check" of pet bedding and pet resting areas.
- If ticks are found on the animal, remove with tweezers by grasping around the tick's mouthparts as closely as possible to the dog's skin and pull straight out.
- Indoor tick management can also be aided by steam cleaning upholstery, cracks, and crevices.

Eliminate Harborages Outside the Home

- Keep grass trimmed as low as possible.
- Cut back shrubs and reduce underbrush as much as possible.

Read and download our [brochure](#) and [tick best management](#)

[practice](#) guide.

For additional information regarding the biology and management of brown dog ticks, click [here](#).

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:

The first of PMU's 2016 courses are open and filling! [Register](#) early and ensure your spot! [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. [GHP Foundations \(Feb 2-5\)](#) and [WDO courses \(Mar 3-4, 2016\)](#) are also open!

January 2016 Offerings:

Foundations of Termite Management 101

Date: Jan 13-15, 2016; W-F

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

Location: 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.

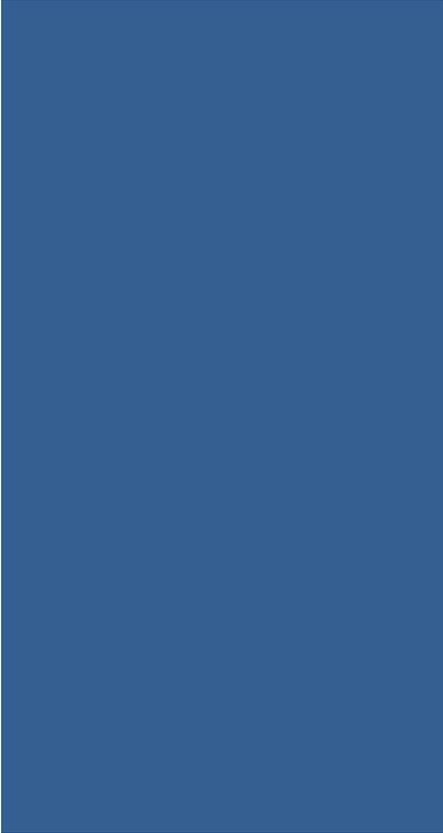
[Register here](#)

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/](http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/map/)