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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

Pest Calendar - Seasonal Ant Activity

By Mike Bentley

In Florida, air temperatures are generally warm enough for ants to remain active from early spring through fall (Fig 1). Here are some tips that can help you decrease callbacks, extend ant management, and can be used as talking points with customers to further demonstrate your expertise!

	Winter			Spring			Summer			Fall		
Pest	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
Ants												

Fig 1. Seasonal level of pest ant activity in Florida. Graphic by: Michael Bentley, University of Florida.

PMU Focus - Non-Chemical Ant Management

Many non-chemical control methods such as habitat modification, sanitation, and exclusion are intended to reduce the likelihood that ants will nest in or around structures. Other non-chemical control methods that include biological control and mechanical control are intended to reduce existing pest populations.

- **Habitat Modification** is the manipulation of the environment to reduce the likelihood of ants nesting in the area. Examples include:
 - o Removing landscape debris from around a structure to eliminate pest harborage
 - o Minimizing groundcover (mulch, pine straw, or leaf litter) depth to no more than 1" to encourage the natural drying cycle
- **Sanitation** involves removing attractive food or moisture sources. Examples include:
 - o Cleaning up food debris and spills, especially involving sweets, as quickly as possible to eliminate attractive food sources
 - o Storing non-perishable food items in air-tight containers to prevent access from pests

Around Structures

<http://www.eXtension.org/>

- Rinsing empty drink or food containers before disposing them to eliminate food residues
- **Exclusion** is the process of sealing up cracks, gaps, or holes in the structure to eliminate entry points. Examples include:
 - Using an appropriate sealant to fill gaps around window or door frames
 - Installing, or inspecting existing, door sweeps and weather-stripping to seal large gaps and movable joints around doors and windows
- **Biological control** reduces harmful pest populations using natural predators, parasites, or pathogens of those pests. For a review of biological control, click [here](#).
- **Mechanical control** is the use of physical means to control pests. Examples include:
 - Disposing of an object such as a potted plant or firewood that contains an ant nest
 - Vacuuming up trailing ants

In next month's newsletter we will discuss chemical control options for pest ants.

Upcoming Training Opportunities:

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA & LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION CERTIFICATION CLASS REGISTRATION TIME IS HERE! Click [here](#) for more information.

If you plan on taking the [State Certified Operator examination](#) through PMU, you must take both the Foundations and Masters courses. State examinations will be held on Friday, 1 PM, after the completion of the Termite and GHP Masters courses.

Application packets are due to FDACS on:

- Sept 1 for the WDO exam
- Sept 15 for the GHP exam

Please write "PMU" across the top of your application.

WDO Inspections and Form 13645

Date: March 12-13, 2015; Wed-Fri (COURSE FULL, WAITLIST ONLY)

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: \$220

Improperly completed 13645 forms are a leading cause of litigation for pest control. Foundations recommended, but not required.

- Do an inspection at PMUs house for WDOs with Paul Mitola from DACS.
- Learn the proper determination of "live, damage and evidence" and how to use DACS 13645.
- Learn from industry attorney Mark Ruff about the legal ramifications of an incomplete WDOI, using case studies and a mock trial video.
- Review WDO biology and behavior.

[Register here](#)

Foundations of Turf Pest Management

Date: March 18-20, 2015; Wed-Fri

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

Learn about common turf varieties, turf diseases, IPM of turf pests, methods of sampling, equipment calibration, turf maintenance requirements and more!

[Register here](#)

Foundations of General Pest Management 101

Date: March 25-27, 2015; Wed-Fri

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, 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 here](#)

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

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA & LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION CERTIFICATION CLASS REGISTRATION TIME IS HERE!

Registration opens March 23rd to enroll in Landscape IPM: Ornamentals and Turf, and take your first steps toward getting a UF Pest Management Certificate or becoming LMA certified!

A three credit/six week course will be offered starting June 29, 2015 at the University of Florida (UF). The course is called "Landscape IPM: Ornamentals and Turf" and is course number IPM 4254. This course will be offered for UF credit and will be available for students that are enrolled at UF or for people outside UF that are interested in the material. UF will offer the course in summer (2015) and it will be available 100% online. You must have computer and internet access to take this class. This course is for UF juniors and seniors and landscape and pest management supervisors and owners.

This course will be used as a measure for LMA Certification. The LMA will offer students who pass this class (with an A or a B) the opportunity to become LMA Certified without additional testing since they will be tested as part of the course. This course will also count towards a UF Certificate in Landscape Pest Management.

Learn more about the UF distance program, including costs and how to register-

<http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/academics/distance/>

To register for this course please complete a Non-degree Registration Request at the following web-site:
<http://www.isis.ufl.edu/cgi-bin/eaglec?MDASTRAN=nda-intro>

You will need to fill out some personal information on the form and the following course information: * Select Year and Term of Registration: 2015 Summer (June) * College: THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND LIFE SCIENCES - Entomology Undergrad

Distance Courses * Course Information: Prefix- IPM. Number- 4254.

If you have trouble filling out this form and registering for the course please contact Ms. Ruth Brumbaugh, Entomology and Nematology Department Student Services Coordinator. Phone: 352-273-3912 Email: brumbaugh@ufl.edu

Please let Ms. Brumbaugh know you are attempting to register for the course as a Nondegree seeking student so she knows how to help you.

If you would like more information about the course please contact the course instructor Dr. Jennifer L. Gillett-Kaufman Phone: (352)273-3950 Email: gillett@ufl.edu. She cannot help you with registration and will forward all registration requests to Ms. Brumbaugh.

Learn more from IFAS



- UF/IFAS has Extension Offices in each Florida's sixty-seven counties. We also have twelve Research and Education Centers 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 the office near you please visit: <http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/ma>