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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/>

## National Pest Management Month

The [National Pest Management Association](#) (NPMA) celebrates April as National Pest Management Month. For more than 35 years April has served as a time to honor the professional pest control industry for “playing a key role in protecting both health and property from significant pest-borne threats.” For more information on the health threats that pests can pose, click [here](#). For more information on National Pest Management Month, click [here](#).

## Pest Calendar - Seasonal Ant Activity

By Mike Bentley

April marks the mid-way point of spring which means warm weather and increased pest ant activity in Florida. Seasonal pest ant activity in Florida generally runs from early spring through fall (Fig 1).

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

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

## PMU Focus -Chemical Ant Management

Most chemical control products intended to manage ants are formulated as baits, liquids, or granular insecticides.

### Baits

- Ant baits contain slow-acting insecticides mixed with carbohydrates (sugars), lipids (oil), and/or proteins to attract foraging ants looking for food.
- When ants forage, they recruit other ants to the food source using trailing [pheromones](#).
- Ants that have acquired the bait share the toxicant with other ants via trophallaxis.
- Bait formulations include *gels* (carbohydrate or protein), *liquids* (carbohydrates), or *granules* (lipid/protein).

- Baits are most effective when competing food sources (spilled foods, left-overs, dry-goods) are removed.

### Liquids

- Outdoor perimeter sprays or spot treatments can have repellent or non-repellent qualities. More ants may die inside after a non-repellent treatment. Customers should be advised of this possible result.
- In general, sprays are not an effective long term solution. Instead, focus on sanitation and exclusion to manage ant populations indoors.

### Granular Insecticides

- Granular products contain an active ingredient that is adhered to a carrier such as clay. This formulation is easily applied around the perimeter of a structure.
- When the granules contact moisture, the active ingredient is released.
- Follow the label directions that will describe conditions that result in effective granular applications.

For more information regarding pesticide formulations, click [here](#).

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## Upcoming Training Opportunities:

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.

**All courses count toward initial technician training. Consider our one day courses in June for brand new hires! See: <https://pmu.ifas.ufl.edu/courses>**

**These are the last Foundations courses until September.**

### Foundations of Termite Management 101

**Date:** April 15-17, 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 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 General Pest Management 101**

**Date:** April 29 – May 1, 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

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**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/>**