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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 - Fungus Gnats

By [Michael Bentley](#)

Warmer Florida temperatures offer ideal conditions for many tropical plants to grow outdoors almost year round. When temperatures drop, potted plants get moved indoors. This usually leads to calls for pest management professionals (PMPs) about "little black bugs" flying indoors. Fungus gnats are commonly to blame, but other insects can find their way into potted plants. While "little black bugs" doesn't narrow down the list of suspects, knowing some general biology and habits of fungus gnats can send PMP's in the right direction.

Fungus Gnats - Biology

- Small, slender, long legged flies. Present year round, peak populations in winter and spring. (Picture 1)
- Larval stages feed on fungus that grows in soil when high moisture levels are high. (Photo 2)
- Harmless to humans, but considered a greenhouse pest capable of damaging plant parts (Photo 3)
- Other common flying pests pictured below (Picture 4-6)



Photo 1. Fungus gnat adult.



Photo 2. Fungus gnat larvae.



Photo 3. Plant damage.



Photo 4. Fruit Fly.



Photo 5. Moth Fly.



Photo 6. Phorid Fly.

Fungus Gnats - Management

- Keep soil moisture levels low. Dry soil out if needed.
- Store potting soil dry, and in sealed containers.

- Hydrated lime can be added to some soils to eliminate fungal food sources
- Yellow sticky cards can be used to trap adults

For more information on fungus gnats, click [here](#).

Photos 1-3 can be found at:

<http://www.mrec.ifas.ufl.edu/lso/entomol/fungnat/fungnat.htm>

Photo 4 and 6 can be found at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in020>

Photo 5 can be found at:

<http://iml.jou.ufl.edu/projects/fall07/mcaleenan/history.html>

Upcoming Training Opportunities: PMU Course Offerings

New Course!

We are pleased to announce our first **Foundations of Turfgrass Pest Management** course! It will be offered at the Mid-Florida Research and Education Center in Apopka, FL, from March 6 (8 am) to March 8 (noon), 2013. Topics and activities will include how to reduce your risk through proper safety training (e.g., pesticide storage, transport, use, and spill management), turfgrass management (e.g., distinguishing grasses, weeds and different pest signs and symptoms; ID of weather-related stresses, compaction, irrigation and mowing problems), and understanding pesticide labels, common formulations, integrated pest management, and pesticide resistance management. Registration for this program will be through EventBrite (<http://pestmgmtuniv.eventbrite.com/#>) rather than the PMU website. After this course, please look for us at the PMU website. Register soon because it'll fill up quickly. Hope to see you there!

Date: March 6-8, 2013; W-F

Registration deadline: March 1, Friday or until full

Place: UF/IFAS Apopka MREC

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

Cost: \$350

[Register here](#)

WDO Inspections and Form 13645

Only offered once a year!

Improperly completed 13645 forms are a leading cause of litigation for pest control. Foundations recommended, but not required. Class duration: 1.5 days.

- 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.

Date: Mar 21-22, 2013; W-F

Registration deadline: Mar 18, Monday

Place: UF/IFAS Apopka MREC

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

Cost: \$195

[Register here](#)

Foundations of Termite Management 101

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. Class duration: 2.5 days.

Date: April 24-26, 2013; W-F

Registration deadline: April 19, Friday

Place: UF/IFAS Apopka MREC

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

Cost: \$350

[Register here](#)

Through the University of Florida

Landscape IPM: Ornamentals and Turf

Starting May 2013, take your first steps toward getting a certificate or becoming LMA certified! A new three credit course will be offered starting May 2013 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 this summer (2013) 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 website:

<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: 2013 Summer A/C (May)
- 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 .

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>