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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/>

## Best Wishes!

We send our best wishes to Dr. Eileen Buss upon her retirement and thank her for her service. While Dr. Buss will no longer be with PMU, the L&O offerings will continue in 2016. Stay tuned!

## Invasive Species

By Mike Bentley



Tawny crazy ant worker standing on a dime. Photo: UF/IFAS, M. Bentley.

There are +50,000 [invasive species](#) established in the United States that are responsible for nearly \$120 billion dollars in environmental and agricultural damage annually. To improve awareness and education of some of the top invasive pests inhabiting the U.S., we are continuing our three-part series on invasive species. In this issue we highlight the tawny crazy ant, *Nylanderia fulva*.

## PMU Focus -The Tawny Crazy Ant

The tawny crazy ant is a tropical ant species native to South America that is currently established in pockets throughout the Southeastern US. This ant has also been referred to as the Caribbean, Raspberry, and the brown or hairy crazy ant due to its appearance (Fig 1). Although the tawny crazy ant does not sting or transmit disease, it can produce overwhelming infestations that can damage electrical equipment and interfere with outdoor activities.



Fig. 1. Tawny crazy ant worker. Photo: UF/IFAS, M. Bentley.

### What to Look For:

- Reddish-brown ants approximately 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch long (Fig. 1)
- Foraging ants form loose trails and can completely cover an infested area, making the ground appear to be moving
- Colonies maintain multiple nest sites that often occur under landscape objects or debris (rocks, leaf litter, bark, etc.) (Fig. 2)



Fig. 2. Tawny crazy ant nest site with brood and reproductives located between fallen pieces of pine tree bark. Photo: UF/IFAS, M. Bentley.

### Management Options:

- 100% eradication of the tawny crazy ant is not probably in areas where this ant is established; however, population suppression is possible
- IPM strategies such as **sanitation** and **exclusion** provide effective methods of reducing harborage and access for tawny crazy ants around structures
- Indoors: Remove trash regularly and keep food items in the refrigerator or in sealed containers to minimize food and water sources for ants.
- Outdoors: Remove yard debris (leaf litter, fallen branches etc.) and keep hedges/trees trimmed so that they do not touch the home.
- Spraying alone will not be effective against this ant.
- Bait with granular and liquid baits. Continue baiting through late fall, particularly around known pockets of

infestation.

To read more about the tawny crazy ant, click [here](#).

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## Upcoming Training Opportunities:

*After the June courses, our next courses will be held in September. Don't wait! The one-day courses are ideal for new employees and will help fulfill the 40 hour training requirement for new ID card holders.*

If you plan on taking the [State Certified Operator examination](#) through PMU, you must take both the Foundations and Masters courses. These courses are open at the website: <https://pmu.ifas.ufl.edu/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.

### **General Household Pests Basics 100**

**Date:** June 25, 2015

**Time:** 8 AM-5 PM (TH)

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

**Registration fee:** \$175

This one-day class is geared for the new technician, sales, or office staff. Additionally, this class will help fulfill the 40 hour training requirement for new ID card holders.

- Learn about the general Florida Statute 482 requirements for technicians and sales.
- Learn the basics concepts Integrated Pest Management.
- Learn how to monitor and make decisions about treatment.

[Register here](#)

### **Termite Basics 100**

**Date:** June 26, 2015

**Time:** 8 AM-5 PM (F)

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

### Registration fee: \$175

This one-day class is geared for the new technician, sales or office staff. Will help fulfill 40 hour training requirement for new ID card holders.

- Learn about the general Florida Statute 482 requirements for technicians and sales staff.
- Be introduced to basic termite biology and behavior in the context of structural infestations.
- Learn to determine different slab types in the field and the common ways termites enter structures
- Practice basic methods for treatment

[Register here](#)

Click on "Register here" 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/>**

