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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 - Ghost Ants

By [Michael Bentley](#)

The key to any effective ant control program is good preparation and review. In our last issue, we covered ***crazy ants***. This issue will focus on basic biology and control tips for ghost ants.

Ant review:

- Ants are social insects and live in colonies, so eliminating just a few will not take care of an infestation.
- Trailing [pheromones](#) are what ants use to locate and return to food. This makes them the key to successful baiting strategies!
- [Trophallaxis](#) is the act of regurgitating food to other ants. This is how bait is shared throughout a colony.

Ghost Ants:

- Ghost Ant: *Tapinoma melanocephalum* (Fig 1).
- Small black and opaque bodied ants that form strong trails. Known to have a "musky" smell when crushed.
- Colonies are [polygyne](#), containing multiple queens. Preferred nesting sites are high humidity, leaf litter environments.
- Commonly found indoors in potted plants, kitchens, or bathrooms.
- Workers do not sting, and have high affinity to sweets and sugars.
- Best control strategies include reducing clutter to eliminate harborage sites. Also, targeted baiting applications with "sweet" based baits are most effective. Do not spray repellent products around baits. Baits will be ineffective.

For additional information on crazy ants and photos below, click [here](#).



Fig 1. Ghost Ant.



Fig 2. Ghost Ant.

Upcoming Training Opportunities:

We are in the final offerings of PMU for the year. Sign up early before classes are full! Classes cap at 20 participants, including Masters and Expert levels. Master level classes are only offered once a year. Expert level classes are offered every other year.

Summary

Click on highlighted course titles for more information or to register.

June 14; [Termite Basics](#) (Registration deadline June 12, Wed)

Jun 28; [Bed Bug Management](#)

July 11, [GHP Basics](#)

August—BREAK—no courses offered

Sept 4-6, [Termite Foundations](#) (last one for 2013)

Sept 18-20, [Foundations of Turfgrass Pest Management](#)

Sept 25-27, [GHP Foundations](#) (last one for 2013)

Oct 2-4, [Foundations of Tree and Shrub Pest Management](#)

Nov 6-8, [Foundations of Turfgrass Pest Management](#)

Must advance through Foundations to qualify for these courses:

Oct 16-18; [GHP Masters](#)

Oct 18; 1 pm; GHP state exam (must also meet state requirement, write "PMU" on application)

Nov 13-15; [Termite Masters](#)

Nov 15; Termite and WDO exam (must also meet state requirement; write "PMU" on application)

Dec 18-20, [Master of Turfgrass Pest Management](#)

Must advance through Foundations and Masters for qualify for this course

Dec 4-6; GHP Expert

JUNE OFFERINGS

Termite Basics 100

This one-day class is geared for the brand new technician, sales

or office staff.

- 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

Date: June 14, 2013; Friday

Registration Deadline: June 12, Wednesday

Place: UF/IFAS Apopka MREC

Time: 8 AM-5 PM

Cost: \$150

[Register here](#)

Bed Bug Management 102

This intensive course in bed bug management covers non-chemical and chemical methods of control, including a brief overview of fumigation. Learn about bed bug biology and behavior in relation to resistance management. Practice inspection techniques at PMU's house and observe a canine inspection.

Date: June 28, 2013; Friday

Registration Deadline: June 21, Friday

Place: UF/IFAS Apopka MREC

Time: 8 AM-5 PM

Cost: \$150

[Register here](#)

JULY OFFERINGS

GHP Basics 100

This one-day class is geared for the new technician, sales or office staff.

- 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

Learn how food sources, harborage, and water sources play a role in infestation and management using ants and cockroaches as examples.

Date: July 11, 2013; Thursday

Registration Deadline: July 5, Friday

Place: UF/IFAS Apopka MREC

Time: 8 AM-5 PM

Cost: \$150

[Register here](#)

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>