

EPA Recognizes School IPM Program

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N.C. State University's School Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program recently received the Environmental Protection Agency's Recognition Award for efforts in making the environment in North Carolina public schools safer and healthier for children. Dr. Mike Linker, program director, and Dr. Godfrey Nalyanya, coordinator, are based in the Department of Crop Science.



The Department of Crop Science's Dr. Mike Linker (left) and Dr. Godfrey Nalyanya lead the university's School IPM program. Photo by Becky Kirkland

Linker and Nalyanya promote the adoption of IPM, a proactive and common-sense approach to controlling pests that discourages routine application of pesticides in public schools. IPM incorporates facility inspections, education, sanitation, structural maintenance and repair, proper recycling and waste management in a comprehensive plan. Limited and targeted applications of reduced-risk pesticides can be done when needed.

Research indicates that children are especially at risk to pests and pesticides. Their bodies, behaviors and size make them both different from and more vulnerable than adults to pesticides. From conception through adolescence, they are in a dynamic, often-sensitive state of growth as their immature nervous, respiratory, reproductive and immune systems develop. For this reason they should be protected from exposure to pests and the pesticides that are commonly used to control pests.

The IPM approach reduces the amount and frequency of pesticide use and eliminates the exposure of children to pesticide residues. IPM produces long-lasting pest control results and ultimately reduces property damage by pests. Over time, school districts spend less on pest control using IPM. The NCSU School IPM program is funded by a grant from the Pesticide Environmental Trust Fund (PETF) of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

- Written by Natalie Hampton

Heather Creecy: The Center's First Intern

The Southern Region IPM Center established a communication intern program this past summer with Heather Creecy from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill filling the role as the Center's first intern. Creecy is a rising senior majoring in Journalism and Mass Communication with a concentration in Public Relations. She assisted with the development of press releases and feature articles, researched local news stories, built an Agnews database, assisted with the development of Center brochures, searched for and wrote captions for the pictures featured on the center webpage (www.sripmc.org) and took the lead role in researching and reporting NewsFlash items.

The internship program proved to be a success this summer and Center staff are looking into continuing the program throughout the year.



Heather Creecy, summer intern for the Southern Region IPM Center.

PMAP Grants Awarded

The final results of the national Pest Management Alternative Plan (PMAP) competition were recently released for FY 2005. Using the priorities submitted by Regional IPM Centers, CSREES awarded over \$382,000 to researchers within the southern region. Southern Region projects funded include:

- Trap Crops and Biopesticides for Tarnished Plant Bug Control to Reduce Reliance on Organophosphate Insecticides in Midsouth Cotton
- Development and Field Evaluation of an In-hive Trap for Small Hive Beetles
- Pest Management Strategies for Stored Products; Raw Grain and Value-added Foods

Other projects funded throughout the country include:

- Development and Implementation of Best Management Practices to Reduce the Impact of New Invasive Insect Pests, the Swede Midge
- Demonstration Trials of Food Grains Ozonation - a New Chemical-free Stored Product Pest Control Technology
- Designing Pest Management Strategies in Seed Alfalfa to Conserve Natural Enemies and Pollinators
- Alternative Management Strategies for Onion Maggot in Onion and a Guideline for Implementation
- Reduced Fungicide Strategy for Management of Cranberry Fruit Rot

PMAP Priorities

This year was the first year that regional Centers were asked to participate in the development of the RFA which in turn had a direct impact on projects that were funded. Center staff asked numerous stakeholder groups such as the Steering Committee, Advisory Council, IPM Coordinators, State Contacts etc. to suggest southern region priorities for the RFA. The following priorities were included in the PMAP RFA:

1. Respond to pest management needs and priorities identified in

Pest Management Strategic Plans from the Southern Region.

2. Respond to new pest problems in Southern Region crops resulting from losses or potential losses of IPM technologies due to regulatory decision, voluntary cancellation, or pest resistance, (e.g., fipronil seed treatment for rice water weevil; glyphosate resistant horseweed)
3. Respond to new and emerging problems due to pest invasions (e.g., imported fire ant, soybean rust) and changes in production systems (e.g., whiteflies on vegetables; stinkbug on cotton)

eXtension Grant

With support from the three other regional Centers, Jim VanKirk, director of the Southern Region IPM Center, submitted a grant proposal for the eXtension Community of Interest RFA.

According to the eXtension website, the goal of eXtension is: "The Cooperative Extension Services of the U.S. states and territories, along with other components of Land-Grant Universities and the Cooperative States Research, Education and Extension Service of USDA, are cooperating to build a national eXtension system.. This collaborative effort will allow the Extension system to more efficiently serve current and new customers in ways that provide accurate and just in time information for decision making. The information technology and the intellectual capacity for this system are in place to complement the dedicated Extension educators located in the 3000 plus counties of the US."

For more information about eXtension visit:

<http://intranet.extension.org>



4. Improve or develop IPM systems, technologies and techniques that reduce risk relative to existing systems in Southern Region crops (e.g., organophosphate use in peaches)
5. Improve or develop alternatives to prophylactic controls for soil pests in Southern Region crops (e.g., grape root borer, wireworms, white grubs, nematodes in a variety of crops)
6. Improve the management of pests in commercial nursery and commercial greenhouse production (e.g., whiteflies) in the Southern Region.

S-RIPM Grants Awarded

The following grants were awarded by the Southern Region IPM Grants Program (S-RIPM) for FY2005:

Pheromone Based Management of Dogwood Borer - J. Christopher Bergh, VT

Building an Education, Training and Outreach Image Support System for the Southern Region Plant Diagnostics Network - G. Keith Douce, UGA

Development of Weather-based Regression Models for Predicting Flights of Tobacco Thrips and Spread of Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus - George Kennedy, NCSU

A Multi-State Network for Predicting Pest Activity in Pecans - Allen Knutson, TAMU

Integrated Management of Anthracnose, Botrytis and Phytophthora in Southeastern Strawberry Plasticulture Systems - Frank J. Louws, NCSU

Use of Brassicaceae Cover Crop and Other Integrated Weed Management Strategies for Control of Nutsedge Species in High-risk Crops - Jason K. Norsworthy, Clemson

Reducing Homeowner Pesticide Use and Increasing Consumer and Student Knowledge of IPM Through Public Outreach/Education - Mila J. Pearce, UGA

Novel Approaches to Integrated Management of Armillaria Root Rot of Peach - Guido Schnabel, Clemson

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Upcoming Events

S-RIPM RFA Release
Early Fall (Tentative date)

IPM Directors Meeting in Washington D.C.
October 4-6, 2005

Advisory Council Meeting in Raleigh, NC
October 19, 2005

Steering Committee Meeting in Raleigh, NC
To Be Determined
(dates will be announced once determined)

