

✚MANAGE WEEDS WITH IPM...

California's Department of Pesticide Regulation offers some general tips on weed management:

"In an IPM program, herbicides should be used as a last resort and only after any underlying problems have been addressed. Herbicide use without adequate irrigation, fertility, aeration or drainage frequently leads to unhealthy turf and more herbicide use. Weeds, almost by definition, thrive in poor cultural conditions...What are some low-cost ways to implement IPM-compatible weed management? Reducing excessive irrigation in a lawn can improve the competitiveness of some turf types and reduce the amount of common weeds like plaintain, nutsedge and dallisgrass. More frequent aeration is an inexpensive practice and will help manage knotweed. A higher mowing height can reduce spurges and Bermuda grass. You're never going to eliminate all weeds... but with proper maintenance practices, you can stop them from becoming a problem."

From: *Moving Toward Better And and Weed Management in Schools*. Messenger, Belinda, et. al. 2007. Coalition for Adequate School Housing (CASH) Register. 28(3): 10-11.

✚MOZZIE SEASON'S IN FULL SWING...


Update on West Nile Virus: A horse in the north Phoenix areas of Maricopa County has tested positive for West Nile Virus. This is the first equine case of WNV in Arizona in 2007, and is the first positive surveillance finding in Maricopa County this year. The horse had onset of lameness in one leg in mid-April, and showed neurologic signs (ataxia, weakness, mild flaccid paralysis) in early May. Blood was submitted to the UA Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Tucson where it tested positive for WNV by IgM – ELISA. The horse had not been vaccinated for WNV prior to the onset of symptoms. Maricopa County issued a press release (**attached**).

* If you would like to borrow mosquito traps to monitor populations in your school district, please contact Dawn or Jennifer.

✚NEED SOME HELP GETTING ORGANIZED?

Track and manage environmental information in your school district with the EPA's "Healthy School and Environmental Assessment Tool" ("HealthySEAT"). It is designed to be customized and used by district-level staff to conduct *completely voluntary* self-assessments of school environments. The software needed to do this can be downloaded at no cost from the EPA web site, and once it is downloaded the HealthySEAT software is yours to customize and use as you see fit!

* A newer version of the software (Version 2 Beta) is now available for download: <http://epa.gov/schools/healthyseat/version2beta.html>. If you try it out, send EPA some feedback on how you like the software by or before June 20th, 2007.

 Electronic notice boards (posters) are available for anyone who would like to put them for school faculty, students, kitchen staff, custodians and maintenance personnel. Please contact Dawn or Jennifer if you're interested.

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