

Hello school IPMers and interested others,

February monthly update below...

Bug Bombs...

Apparently, hundreds of fires and/or explosions are caused by bug bombs each year as a result of user error. Using bombs without first making sure to turn off ignition sources (such as a pilot light on a hot water heater) are commonly the source of such explosions. If you or someone you know is tempted to use a bug bomb, please let them know about IPM methods and direct them to your informational sources or those at the University of Arizona (Urban IPM website and staff). IPM methods are simpler, safer, and less risky than bug bombs in terms of aggravating asthma, endangering your home through user error, and risk of endangering pets (through food and water left out) and plants.

Arizona's Structural Pest Control Commission is Consolidating...

In an attempt to reduce duplication of resources and increase efficiency of public services, Arizona's SPCC is being transferred to the state Department of Agriculture. Regulation of structural pest control in Arizona will fall under the Dep. Of Agriculture as a result of this plan. A public hearing for comments was held in Phoenix Thursday February 7th, and another is scheduled in Tucson for Friday February 8th, 10 AM. The Department of Agriculture would like to hear your ideas and suggestions for what citizens want in a regulatory agency. Please contact Ed Hermes with your comments at (602) 542-0958, or e-mail them to ehermes@azd.gov.

Weekly updates on the consolidation of these two departments can be found at the Arizona Department of Agriculture website: www.azda.gov

Rodents Among Us...

It's that time of year – finally Arizona is getting cool weather and with it you may have noticed an influx of rodents indoors. For assistance with educating school staff about THEIR role in rodent management, download the Pest Press -- House Mouse issue -- from <http://ag.arizona.edu/urbanipm/schoolipm/newsletters/index.html>. Also, the Penn State University has comprehensive information for pest managers on rodent IPM, sanitation to combat rodents, etc. Check it out at their Wildlife Pests website: <http://paipm.cas.psu.edu/481.htm>.

Learn More About Cooperative Extension...

University of Arizona's Cooperative Extension addresses many citizen needs throughout the state. In specific, learn more about how extension addresses IPM in urban and agricultural areas by downloading the 6-page document entitled "Integrated Pest Management: Protecting Arizona's Environment, Human Health and Economic Vitality", which can be found at www.cals.arizona.edu/extension/marketing/outreach_materials/ipm.pdf

Orkin Launches Junior Pest Investigators...

Know a primary school science teacher looking for fun lesson plans, or even just a curious neighbor kid? Check out <http://www.juniorpi.com/>.

"Junior Pest Investigators is an online resource designed to help kids and teachers discover green, environmentally friendly ways to prevent insects, bugs and rodents from entering our spaces and becoming pests. You'll find four fun and interesting lesson plans for your grade level, along with teacher materials such as grading rubrics, quizzes and assessment tools. Whether you teach kindergarten, first, second, third, fourth, fifth or sixth grade, you'll benefit from the well thought out inquiry-based lessons that meet national science standards."

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