

IPM in Schools

The Integrated Pest Management in Schools Project is aimed at offering a better alternative to the routine chemical spraying currently used by our school districts. Frequently the routine sprays are ineffective and increasing numbers of parents are keeping students home for a day or two after the monthly sprays.

Our initial pilot program has involved three middle schools in the Kyrene School District (Maricopa County) that were identified as having problematic pest populations including bark scorpions, *Culex* mosquitoes, southern fire ants and Turkestan cockroaches. The program mid-term evaluation established a greater than 90% reduction in pesticide use, a dramatic reduction in arthropod pests in all the schools involved (we estimate at least an 85% pest reduction) and a similar cost to instigate the IPM approach compared with the traditional chemically based program.

Due to the overwhelming success the program will be expanded to all the Kyrene district schools in spring 2001 (27 schools).

The project has already expanded beyond it's initial goals and now involves research projects to use organic acids to reduce fire ant and mosquito populations in school playing fields. Other state agencies are now involved including the Arizona Structural Pest Control Commission and the Arizona Game and Fish Department. Teachers and students are now involved with the project and students are even involved in checking out traps and identifying bugs. A number of teachers are applying for mini grants to expand their own programs.

IPM Participants:

Dr. Paul Baker, Research Entomologist, University of Arizona

Dr. David Broadstreet, Arizona Structural Pest Control Commission

Mr. John Carter, Monroe County Community Schools Corporation
Dr. Robert M. Corrigan, RMC Pest Management Consulting
Ms. Mary K. Grisier, Life Scientist, EPA, Region 9
Dr. Dawn Gouge, Urban Entomologist, University of Arizona
Dr. Fudd Graham, Auburn University
Dr. Marc Lane, School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University
Mr. Mike Lindsey, Global Organics, Tempe Arizona.
Dr. Carl Martin, Arizona Structural Pest Control Commission
Mr. Carl Olson, Entomological Curator, University of Arizona
Mr. Stan Peterson: Kyrene School District: Facilities Manager
Dr. Kirk Smith, Research entomologist, University of Arizona
Mr. Jerry Yochim, Monroe County Community Schools Corporation