

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



EPA School IPM Grant Fact Sheet
2012 Grantee: University of Florida

A School IPM Consortium: Reaching One Million Children

Implementing Integrated Pest Management in Alabama, Georgia, and Florida



Funding Awarded: \$244,372

Overview

Best Practices / Data Collection / State-to-State Technology Transfer / On-Site Trainings / Online Trainings

Through this grant, the University of Florida will advance the adoption of verifiable school Integrated Pest Management (IPM) that can impact nearly one million children. The primary goal of the project is to develop a consortium to support IPM implementation in new school districts and maintain support for schools with existing IPM programs.

The consortium will include regulatory bodies, school districts, pest control industry members, and university support teams. It will support and direct the effective implementation of school IPM programs in Alabama, Georgia, and Florida.

To support the expansion of school IPM throughout the three states, activities will include IPM program review and maintenance, hands-on trainings, continuing education credit options, and surveys.

Objectives

- Increase the number of school districts with IPM
- Create and support an Alabama-Georgia-Florida (AL/GA/FL) consortium for IPM trainings

The benefit to the public is that a properly implemented IPM plan in schools will reduce pests and allergens from pests, which can result in fewer sick days for children, and fewer work days lost for parents.

- Increase the level of IPM awareness within AL/GA/FL K-12 schools.
- Increase the level of IPM capabilities among AL-GA-FL pest managers who work in K-12 schools.



Programs & Activities

- Implement IPM in the following or comparable school districts: Tallapoosa School District (Alabama), Orange County School District (Florida), and Gwinnett County and DeKalb County school district (Georgia).
- Provide maintenance training for schools, other agencies and pest control associations actively supporting IPM implementation. Provide site visits as needed to school districts that include hands-on training or walking staff through a solution to reinforce techniques to manage emerging or recurring pest problems. Respond to numerous phone and email inquiries in addition to requests for site visits.



Programs and Activities (continued)

The University of Florida will improve upon existing and design new brochures including a “Welcome Packet” for those interested in starting a school IPM program. The packet will provide a model contract for IPM services, an inspection checklist, pest sighting logs, and other useful documents.

Training:

- On-site training, certification, guided demonstration, and recognition of pest managers that complete school IPM trainings (on-site trainings, webinars, distance learning, and technology transfer).
- Consortium members will host annual school IPM trainings at the School Plant Managers Association meetings, coalition meetings, and State Departments of Health and Agriculture staff meetings.

Desired Outcomes

- One million students and staff in verifiable IPM school programs
- Measure pesticide use and pest numbers to assess program progress
- Assess satisfaction with pest control before and after IPM implementation
- Increase consortia partnerships to advance IPM adoption
- Increase pesticide applicator knowledge in school IPM through training programs
- Increase the number of school districts with IPM programs for public schools with support from regulators to ensure compliance
- Create and support an Alabama-Georgia-Florida consortium with partnerships committed to provide training in K-12 grade schools
- Use regional school IPM technology transfer and training such as webinars, Polycom, and distance learning
- Provide on-site training to school staff and pest management professionals providing pest control in schools
- Hold an IPM coordinators’ conference
- Confirm target audience for IPM implementers in Alabama
- Publish project impacts to disseminate findings and lessons learned

