

2012 School IPM Outcome Program Report

School IPM Team: Janet Hurley, Mike Merchant, Don Renchie, and Charles Allen

Relevance

According to the Texas Education Agency, in FY 10 the public school system consisted of 1,237 school districts and charters, 8,435 campuses and over 4.8 (4,824,778) million students. Of the 1,235 school districts, 1,030 are considered public school districts and are required by the Texas Department of Agriculture to adhere to the Texas school IPM rules. Texas has the second largest student base in the country, and it has more school systems than California.

In 1991, the Texas Legislature passed a law requiring that pests in and around school buildings be managed using integrated pest management. This was one of the first laws in the U.S. requiring schools to implement integrated pest management (IPM) as part of their maintenance programs. In 2007, the Legislature updated the laws defining regulatory guidelines more definitively. Texas is one of the few states that mandate all IPM Coordinators attend a six-hour training course on the basics of IPM principles and specific state regulations. The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) released the new school IPM rules on July 7, 2009 requiring that all IPM Coordinators receive an additional six hours of school IPM training starting Sept. 1, 2009.

In FY 2010, TDA implemented a new inspection process for schools and all end users. The TDA inspector uses a computer program to ask questions based on the School IPM rules. The IPM coordinator for the school district should be able to answer yes to all of them, or they will be considered in non-compliance. During the 79th Legislative Session, one of the rule revisions was to standardize school IPM inspections so that all schools would know what to expect and would be judged fairly. Both the rules and the inspections are in accord, in that anyone who can follow the rules and understands the principles of IPM can pass a TDA inspection. Unfortunately, many of the school IPM coordinators have little experience with school IPM rules; therefore, some may not be prepared for an inspection.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is the only state agency that conducts the required training. Our Agency works closely with TDA to understand the rules, the inspection process and the educational requirements of IPM Coordinators. At AgriLife Extension classes, IPM Coordinators are taught the defining principles of IPM, proper inspection methods, pest identification, use of non-chemical control tactics, and basic pesticide science. In addition, coordinators must become familiar with Texas school IPM regulations and a large portion of the training covers the information needed to pass a TDA inspection.

Potential benefits of school IPM programs include improved indoor air quality, reduction of pesticide exposures among students and staff, and improved pest control. The school IPM program team provides individual assistance with developing and improving the school IPM program when requested. Many school districts that attend our training request individual site visits afterwards to help them prepare for a TDA inspection.

Response

The school IPM team offered three two-day regional workshops and three one-day workshops around the state. The Day 1 school IPM coordinator training has become standardized which allows the program to maintain an overall flow that allows the coordinator to learn by seeing, hearing, and saying what they hear. The training covers a variety of material regarding the coordinator's role in the IPM program. The IPM coordinator must be able to identify pesticides. This helps them manage use records, justify the use of specific pesticides, post school facilities, and properly notify teachers and parents. In addition, the new rule

requirements mandate that IPM coordinators oversee an active pest-monitoring program, understand the basics of IPM principles so that they can manage facility inspections, and provide guidance and oversight of licensed applicators ensuring that they abide by the IPM policy and written program guidelines.

108 IPM Coordinators, School Maintenance Facility Directors, Pest Management Professionals were trained at the Day 1 school IPM Coordinator training. 86 school districts attended our training in 2012. 664,224 students attend school in districts whose IPM Coordinators were trained by the extension program in 2012. Coordinators learned how to prevent pests from entering their buildings, helping ensure the safety of the children. School IPM impacts health and safety in many ways. It helps students and teachers avoid allergen triggers and asthma, and it can even help prevent the flu.

Additional educational methods that are offered by the school IPM team:

- **School Pest News** newsletter – eight issues of *School Pest News* were written and distributed in 2012. Current readership is 1435 individuals, 734 of whom are IPM coordinators
 - In addition, Ms. Hurley is an author and contributor to the School IPM 2015 Newsletter which is distributed by the IPM Institute of North America
- Conducted 12 in state school site visits and 10 out of state school visits associated with a US EPA PRIA grant and an EPA Region 4 grant
 - Houston ISD asked AgriLife Extension in to assist with their IPM program. In 2012, they worked with Extension on building inspections, bid specifications, and training for staff. Training was conducted on a one to one basis. Several campus inspections were made. The Extension School IPM program effort with Mr. Brian Busby and John Perry resulted in Houston ISDs successful compliance with the school IPM rules enforced by TDA. This took the full year to accomplish as many of the suggested documents and guidelines had to be submitted to upper and middle management at HISD for approval and then disseminated to the many campuses in Houston ISD.
- **The School IPM website**, <http://schoolipm.tamu.edu> had increased traffic usage in 2012 due to how the School Pest News was formatted and written. Rather than placing a full story in an email, only a partial story was inserted into the email and a hyperlink was used to drive the reader to the website. This also encouraged the reader to view additional content on the website, such as pest management plans that were developed by the eXtension Urban CoP workgroup.
 - 2012 website received the following:
 - **13,797 visits**, 10,469 unique visitors, 32,553 Pageviews, 2.36 Pages/visit, average visit 2:28
- School IPM training notebooks (3-ring binders with information about the TDA law and rules, necessary recordkeeping forms, written management plans, IPM program guidelines, inspection forms, and other educational handouts) were passed out at all of our school IPM training programs.
- Texas Integrated Pest Management Affiliate for Public Schools (TIPMAPS). This group is an affiliate chapter through Texas Association of School Business Officials (TASBO). AgriLife Extension and TASBO co-sponsored the annual statewide conference
 - 2012 Texas Integrated Pest Management Affiliate for Public Schools Annual Coordinator Conference. Total attendance at the conference was 116, representing 70 school districts. The conference was merged with the TASBO, TASB, SchoolDude Facility Masters conference, and the M&O Academy. The combined conference better served the needs of School IPM Coordinators.

Results

In an attempt to determine the programmatic impact of the School IPM Coordinator training, the school IPM team utilized Turning Point Technologies Audience Response System. Rather than asking static questions, the team utilized this new technology to determine if the class participants were actually understanding and

learning the information that was presented. This allowed the school IPM team to focus on areas that IPM coordinators indicated they did not fully understand.

Number of Participants in which learning was assessed: 108

Class participants were asked the following questions as part of power point lessons – depending on the responses; the instructor was able to reinstruct the audience of move on to the next topic. Introduction to IPM presented by Dr. Mike Merchant or Janet Hurley

	Percent	Count
1) Which of the following does NOT describe IPM		
a) Environmentally sound	11.36	10
b) Aims to eliminate pesticides	64.77	57
c) Practical and economical	6.82	6
d) Prescriptive based on inspection	17.04	15
Total		88
2) Identification of the pest is important because		
a) Proper ID needed to pass TDA inspection	.935	1
b) Sign of professionalism	.935	1
c) Different pests require different treatments	23.36	25
d) All of the above	74.77	80
Total		107
3) Thresholds can be custom designed to prescribe different tactics for		
a) High and low pest numbers	3.85	4
b) Different locations on campus	6.80	7
c) Different technicians to follow	1.94	2
d) 1 and 2	87.38	90
Total		103
4) True or False Monitoring and sampling are the same thing		
a) True	15.46	15
b) False	84.54	82
Total		97
5) The biggest challenge I face in my IPM program is		
a) Developing IPM Plans	15.15	15
b) Not enough resources	14.14	14
c) Always responding to emergencies	9.09	9
d) Gaining cooperation of staff and administration	61.62	61
Totals		99

School IPM Laws and Regulations presented by Dr. Don Renchie or Janet Hurley

	Percent	Count
1) School IPM Law is enforced by		
a) Texas Department of Agriculture	83.33	85
b) TCEQ	0	0
c) Dept of Health	.98	1
d) All of the above	15.69	16
Total		102
2) Who is responsible for posting notification for indoor pesticide applications		
a) School IPM coordinator	51.69	46
b) Licensed applicator	15.73	14

c) Principal	1.12	1
d) All of the above	31.46	28
Total		89
3) Indoor Pesticide treatments – when must you post?		
a) Posting not required indoors	0	0
b) 24 hours in advance	4.63	5
c) 48 hours prior to treatment	95.37	103
d) Depends on school policy	0	0
Total		108
4) All school IPM programs must have a monitoring program that includes use of sticky traps at certain locations inside buildings.		
a) True	71.23	52
b) False	27.40	20
c) I don't know	1.37	1
Total		73
5) The District IPM Policy should be kept in what location		
a) The school board	1.96	2
b) Director of Facilities	.98	1
c) District Superintendent	7.84	8
d) IPM Coordinator	3.92	4
e) C&D	78.43	80
f) All of the above	6.86	7
Totals		102
6) If you use sticky traps to monitor pests, you don't have to keep written records of pest numbers		
a) True	42.65	29
b) False	57.35	39
Totals		68
7) An invoice can take the place of a service ticket to document that pest control service has taken place		
a) True	17.65	18
b) False	82.35	84
Totals		102
8) Outdoor pesticide treatments when should you post		
a) Not required	2.04	2
b) At time of herbicide treatment	16.33	16
c) At time of any pesticide treatment	53.06	52
d) 48 hours in advance of pesticide treatment	28.57	28
Totals		98
9) Unless you have a pesticide license (or incidental use training) you cannot apply a [pesticide to school property		
a) True	85	85
b) False	15	15
Totals		100
10) Certain high risk pesticides are prohibited by the state from use on Texas Schools		
a) True	48.84	42
b) False	51.16	44
Totals		86