

Healthy Colorado Schools School IPM Newsletter- May 2012

working with you to create a safe and healthy environment

Asthma Awareness Month



Each May, organizations across the U.S. join together for Asthma Awareness Month in an effort to increase public awareness about the nation's asthma epidemic. In the U.S., asthma affects 14 million people, of which 6.3 million are children. It is a leading cause of absenteeism. In Colorado asthma is estimated to currently impact more than 250,000 adults according to a recent Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System questionnaire.

The first step in controlling asthma is to avoid asthma triggers. Most asthma attacks are triggered by environmental factors, such as pollen, stinging insects (wasps), cockroaches, mold, pets and mice. You can decrease exposure to asthma triggers using Integrated Pest Management .

For more information and available resources, please visit:
<http://www.epa.gov/asthma/awareness.html>

Check Out the Green Ribbon Schools Winners

Three Colorado schools — Denver Green School, Flagstone Elementary in Castle Rock and Wellington Middle School in Wellington — have been named Green Ribbon Award winners by the U.S. Department of Education.



They're among 78 schools nationwide to win the honor, which is being given this year for the first time.

Green Ribbon Schools is a federal recognition program launched last fall to identify schools that have a comprehensive approach to recycling, energy sustainability, environmental health and sustainability education.

Use of Common Pesticide Linked to Bee Colony Collapse

The likely culprit in sharp worldwide declines in honeybee colonies (colony collapse disorder) since 2006 is imidacloprid, one of the most widely used pesticides, according to a new study from Harvard School of Public Health.



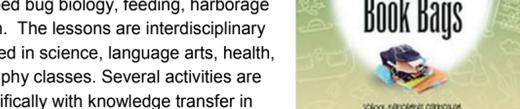
Colony Collapse

Imidacloprid is sold under many names for many uses. It is one of the most widely used insecticides and can be applied by soil injection, tree injection, application to the skin, broadcast foliar, ground application as a granular or liquid formulation, or as a pesticide-coated seed treatment.

Pinpointing the cause of the problem is crucial because bees — beyond producing honey — are prime pollinators of roughly one-third of the crop species in the U.S. and livestock feed. Massive loss of honeybees could result in billions of dollars in agricultural losses, experts estimate.

Disappearing Bees

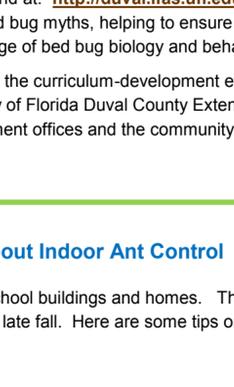
States reporting honeybee colony collapse disorder, as of March 2007.



Source: Bee Alert Technology, Inc.

Bed Bugs and Book Bags Teaches Kids Valuable Lessons

A new bed bug curriculum, **Bed Bugs and Book Bags**, is available. The curriculum is designed for third through fifth grades and includes three lessons, hands-on activities plus a teachers' guide. It focuses on bed bug biology, feeding, harborage and prevention. The lessons are interdisciplinary and can be used in science, language arts, health, art and geography classes. Several activities are designed specifically with knowledge transfer in mind, including a scavenger hunt for bed bugs-conducive environments in the home.



Anyone can download the curriculum for free after completing a 30-minute online training, followed by a quiz. The training can be found at: http://duval.ifas.ufl.edu/Bed_Bugs.shtm. The training dispels common bed bug myths, helping to ensure that anyone using the curriculum has a general knowledge of bed bug biology and behavior.

The Jacksonville Bed Bug Task Force spearheaded the curriculum-development effort. The task force was formed in 2011 by the University of Florida Duval County Extension Office and is made up of 25 members from government offices and the community.

Everything you need to KNOW about Indoor Ant Control

Several ant species may be found in or around school buildings and homes. They enter in search of food in the early spring through late fall. Here are some tips on preventing ant infestations.

- Store food in airtight containers.
- Seal all cracks and openings into buildings as completely as possible. Check the seal or caulking around air conditioning units, windows, doors, pipes or other openings. Repair cracks and holes in floors, walls and ceilings. Seal openings around plumbing fixtures, furnace flues, electrical outlets, windowsills and walls, and along baseboards and ceiling moldings. Thresholds on doors should be as tight as possible and cracks in porches and stoops should be sealed.
- Remove moisture sources. Repair roof leaks and plumbing leaks.
- Prune tree limbs and vegetation touching the roof or side of the building. Also, keep shrubbery away from air vents.
- Do not place soil or mulch against the base or foundation of the building.
- Ant baits can be used as a deterrent, though it is important to note that many ants have different food preferences during the season. Many baits are species specific so identification is critical.
- Inside inspect the edge of carpets and along walls and baseboards.
- Examine areas near water sources since ants will move indoors in search of water.
- Outside look around vegetation, along lawn and sidewalk edges and under mulch. When foraging ants are found, try to trail them back to their colony location.



Pavement Ants

EPA Announces Idle Free Schools

Just as pesticides can cause air quality concerns, so can vehicle exhaust from idling cars and buses. Idling an engine for just one minute produces as much carbon monoxide as smoking three packs of cigarettes. Studies and monitoring at schools have shown benzene, formaldehyde, acetaldehyde and other air toxics to be at levels exceeding established health benchmarks during the afternoon hour coinciding with parents picking up their children. Children's lungs are still developing, and when they are exposed to elevated levels of these pollutants, children have an increased risk of developing asthma, respiratory problems and other adverse health effects. Limiting a vehicle's idling time can dramatically reduce these pollutants and the exposure to them.

Turn Your Key, Be Idle Free www.epa.gov/region8/air/idlefreeeschools.html

For more information contact:
Colorado Coalition for School IPM



Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1177
970-491-1377

<http://coloradoipmcenter.agsci.colostate.edu/Communities>

The Colorado Coalition for School IPM is an effort by Colorado State University, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, school districts, National Environmental Health Association and private pest control professionals.

