Termites

Even though Fall Season is officially here, Florida can still expect a few more weeks of warm weather before air temperatures begin to drop. While this is good news to homeowners, it can also mean good news to termites hoping for one last swarm. To make sure pest management professionals are prepared, this month we highlight fall termite swarms.

PMU Focus - Fall Termite Swarms

Fall termite swarms are not uncommon in Florida. They can start around late September-October and are smaller than the spring swarms that begin in January. Subterranean termites often swarm after it rains and there is little air movement. How do you know if you are in for a fall swarm? Do you see nymphs like the one below when you break into infested wood during the summer?

![Image of R. hageni nymphs in colony. Photo: L. Buss.](https://pmu.ifas.ufl.edu/)

**PMU Focus – Fall Termite Swarms**

Fig 1. *R. hageni* nymphs in colony. Photo: L. Buss.
Fig 2. Nymphs have “wing pads” that are not yet fully formed.

Some Points to Keep in Mind (modified from P. Hardy with permission, PMP Magazine 2014):

- “Start the inspection before you get out of the vehicle.”
- “Consider situations such as a recent addition to the structure because such a project (i.e., tree removal) could have changed the property. When trees are removed, the roots and wood scraps are often left behind.”
- “Look for water problems — not standing water, but where the soil stays moist. With the exception of drywoods, termites need additional moisture. Standing water will make them move to drier areas.”
- “Note what is outside the house: storage sheds, fences, playhouses, doghouses and landscape timbers can provide excellent termite harborage. So can mulch, tree stumps, roots, wood in contact with the ground, stepping-stones and splash blocks.”
- Use a good flashlight.
- Document your findings. Never underestimate the power of a good graph.

Upcoming Training Opportunities:

The first of PMU’s 2016 courses are open! Register early and ensure your spot!

December Offerings:
Master of Lawn and Ornamentals Pest Management

Date: Dec 2-4, 2015; W-F
ace: UF/IFAS Apopka MREC
Time: 8 AM-5 PM (W, TH); 8 AM-12 PM (F)
Registration fee: $375
- Advanced training in diagnosing complex problems in
lawns and landscapes, including nutritional deficiencies and the importance of pH in developing integrated pest management (IPM) treatment plans

- More in-depth information on the biology and life cycle of diseases, insects, and weeds, how to manage resistant populations, chemical modes of action and the importance of chemical rotation
- Learn about practices that can impact plant health and water quality

Register here

**Expert in General Household Pest Management**

**Date:** Dec 2-4, 2015; W-F  
**Place:** UF/IFAS Apopka MREC  
**Time:** 8 AM-5 PM (W, TH); 8 AM-12 PM (F)  
**Registration fee:** $375

The Expert of General Household Pest Management is the fourth in the GHP series of PMU offerings. Learn advanced concepts in product selection biology of pests in and around structures. Must advance through GHP Foundations and Masters in order to qualify for GHP Expert.

- Review of major pests covered in GHP Foundations and Masters
- More stinging insects!
- Fabric pests
- Mosquito biology and control
- Bird, bats, the diseases they carry and an exclusion exercise
- Bed bugs, advanced concepts
- Product selection based on formulation, mode of action and efficacy
- Exercises in working with DACS and hands-on activities for each pest session!

Register here

Click on “Register here” for course descriptions or go to [http://pmu.ifas.ufl.edu/courses](http://pmu.ifas.ufl.edu/courses) for more information

Learn more from IFAS
UF/IFAS has Extension Offices in each of Florida’s sixty-seven counties. We also have twelve Research and Education Centers (RECs) and Research and Demonstration Sites (RDSs).

If you need help a great place to start is your local County Extension Office. With an office located in every county it has never been easier to partner with the University of Florida and your local County Government. To find an office near you please visit: [http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/map/](http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/map/)