PMU Focus - Zika
By: Faith Oi

Pest control is often the first line of defense when it comes to keeping the public safe from vector-borne diseases. Recently, the mosquito-transmitted Zika virus (ZIKV) has grabbed headlines. Florida’s surgeon general provides daily Zika updates. As of this writing, there are 11 counties where people have tested positive for Zika, including 3 pregnant women. Cases have been associated with travel outside the country.

What is important for pest management professionals:

- Most people infected with Zika will be asymptomatic (i.e., have no symptoms), but there is little known about the potential for long-term effects.
- *Aedes aegypti* is a likely vector.
- *Ae. aegypti* is also known as the “yellow fever mosquito.” (We battled this mosquito before.)
- Protect yourself from bites. Wear long-sleeved shirt and long-pants. Use EPA-registered repellents.
- Use an IPM approach. The standard mosquito control recommendations apply.
  - Eliminate standing water. Containers as small as pet dishes, cans, or saucers under potted plants can be considered breeding areas, as can bromeliads and tree holes.
  - Thin vegetation.
  - Use insecticides judiciously. Insecticide resistance develops rapidly. We need to protect this tool of the trade carefully!

Zika resources:
University of Florida’s Medical Entomology Laboratory in Vero
Beach just released a publication that contains accurate and timely information on the Zika virus and mosquito transmission (ENY-888). Please use information from this document as needed in discussing Zika with customers.

We also worked with the IPM Centers to produce a National Zika Virus Pest Alert which may be more appropriate as a “leave-behind” for customers. The following is a portion of the press release: “In response to the emergence of the Zika virus in the Americas, a national pest alert has been developed by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture funded Regional Integrated Pest Management Centers. The pest alert and links to additional resources are available at http://ncipmc.org/action/alerts/zika.php to assist individuals in reducing their exposure to mosquitoes as well as discussing ways to eliminate mosquito larval and pupal development sites. The pest alert can be downloaded, printed and distributed as needed by Extension personnel and the general public.”

Finally, the CDC has an excellent website with frequent updates: http://www.cdc.gov/zika/

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**Landscape IPM Course and LMA**

Get ready to learn this summer: Enroll in Landscape IPM: Ornamentals and Turf, and take your first steps toward getting a UF Pest Management Certificate or becoming LMA Certified! Classes begin June 27th!

A three credit/six week course will be offered starting June 2016 at the University of Florida (UF). The course is called "Landscape IPM: Ornamentals and Turf” and is course number IPM 4254. This course will be offered for UF credit and will be available for students that are enrolled at UF or for people outside UF that are interested in the material. UF will offer the course next summer (2016) and it will be available 100% online. You must have computer and internet access to take this class. This course is for UF juniors and seniors and landscape and pest management supervisors and owners.

This course will be used as a measure for LMA Certification. The LMA will offer students who pass this class (with an A or a B) the opportunity to become LMA Certified without additional testing since they will be tested as part of the course. This course will also count towards a UF Certificate in Landscape Pest Management. Learn more about the UF distance program, including costs and how to register- http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/academics-directory/online-learning/
To register for this course please complete a Nondegree Registration Request at the following website: http://www.isis.ufl.edu/cgi-bin/eaglec?MDASTRAN=nda-intro

Advance Registration: March 21st to May 3rd, then May 5th to June 23rd. Fee payments due July 8!

You will need to fill out some personal information on the form and the following course information:

- Select Year and Term of Registration: 2016 Summer (May)
- College: THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND LIFE SCIENCES – Entomology Undergrad Distance Courses
- Course Information: Prefix- IPM. Number- 4254.

If you have trouble filling out this form and registering for the course please contact Ms. Ruth Brumbaugh, Entomology and Nematology Department Student Services Coordinator. Phone: 352-273-3912 Email: brumbaug@ufl.edu. Please let Ms. Brumbaugh know you are attempting to register for the course as a Nondegree seeking student so she knows how to help you.

If you would like more information about the course please contact the course instructor Dr. Jennifer L. Gillett-Kaufman Phone: (352)273-3950 Email: gillett@ufl.edu. She cannot help you with registration and will forward all registration requests to Ms. Brumbaugh.

Upcoming Training Opportunities:

We are offering a second round of Spring courses!
Register now!

...Did you know that PMU can help you by

- Partially satisfying the 482/5E-14 requirement for initial technician training hours?

Our April 27-29 GHP Masters (5 seats remaining), May 25-27 Termite Masters (9 seats remaining), and Nov 9-11 L&O Masters courses are open! Similar to the Structural Fumigation School (http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/fumigation/), the state has graciously allowed us to hold the state certified operator examination at the end of each Masters course. We hold optional reviews in the evenings. To qualify, you must:

- Take the Foundations and Masters courses for GHP, WDO, or L&O
- Fill out an application package for the certified operator exam either
  - Online or
March 2016 Offerings:

Foundations of General Pest Management 101

**Date:** March 30 – April 1, 2016; Wed-Fri  
**Time:** 8 AM-5 PM (W, TH); 8 AM-12 PM (F)  
**Place:** UF/IFAS Apopka MREC, 2725 S. Binion Rd, Apopka, FL 32703-8504  
**Registration fee:** $375

Pest control matters. Cockroach allergen mitigation can be achieved with IPM.

- Study domestic and peridomestic cockroach species and how to control them as well as rodent, small fly, filth fly, occasional invaders, fire ant, and nuisance ant management.
- Review the labels of commonly used GHP products, practice pest inspections at PMU’s house and develop treatment strategies focused on IPM.
- Do a vehicle inspection and spill drill with Paul Mitola from DACS.

Register here

April 2016 Offerings:

Foundations of Termite Management 101

**Date:** April 13-15, 2016; W-F  
**Place:** UF/IFAS Apopka MREC  
**Time:** 8 AM-5 PM (W, TH); 8 AM-12 PM (F)  
**Registration fee:** $375

Learn how termites exploit over 50 building construction elements and how to treat them in a hands-on environment in 2-days instead of 2 years.

- Practice doing a DACS vehicle inspection and spill drill with Paul Mitola from DACS before a crisis occurs.
- Hear about the top 10 reasons technicians get in trouble and how to avoid them from Mark Ruff, industry attorney.
- Get more in-depth information on termite biology and behavior as well as product label navigation.
Master of General Household Pest Management (5 seats remaining)

Date: April 27-29, 2016; W-F  
Place: UF/IFAS Apopka MREC  
Time: 8 AM-5 PM (W, TH); 8 AM-12 PM (F)  
Registration fee: $375

This fast-paced class is only offered twice a year. **Must have completed Foundations in order to advance.**

- Learn about biting (including bed bugs) and stinging insects, stored product pests, and occasional invaders as well as how to recognize delusory parasitosis.
- Learn about modes of action, formulations and their impact on product selection.
- Create your own product rotation for IPM programs to take back to your companies.
- Play with the tools of the trade, vacuums, steamers, foamers and practice spray patterns.
- Prepare for an introduction to vertebrate pests that carry disease causing organisms.
- Learn about the legal liabilities of GHP work.
- Practice affidavit writing and working with DACS on licensee inspections.

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/