PMU Focus

There is nothing more disturbing to me to receive a call from a homeowner who has had a termite problem that has been misdiagnosed for years. (It happened today and of course, no one from PMU would do this!). The homeowner diagnosed her own problem with the aid of the internet and confirmed her diagnosis by sending a sample to an insect ID lab. She then proceeded to do her own research on how to control drywood termites and could not only list the characteristics of an infestation, but list the pros and cons of the various treatment options.

With Fall right around the corner, I thought it might be a good idea to do a short refresher on walking a homeowner through how to tell the difference between subterranean termites and drywood termites. Most homeowners can see these characters:

Separating ants from termites:

Ants (right) have a waist and elbowed antennae
Termites (left) do not

Subterranean termites leave mud tubes as evidence

Drywood termites leave pellets as evidence. It feels like sand (or look like yeast as one homeowner described it)
I know it’s hard to think that Fall is around the corner when it is still so hot out, but it is not uncommon for subterranean termites to have a fall swarm, so be prepared! Be able to distinguish subterranean termites from drywoods and Formosan subterranean termites from our native subterranean termites.

PMU Reminders

Don’t miss out on the last Foundations of Termite Management for 2012!

Do you have new technicians that with some experience could be great technicians? Would you like to have hands-on experience evaluating 50+ construction types for termite management? If so, then you need the Foundations of Termite Management

Date:  Sept 5-7, 2012; W-F
Place:  UF/IFAS Apopka MREC
Time:  8 AM-5 PM (W, TH); 8 AM-12 PM (F)
Cost:  $350

Registration will close on Aug 31, 2012; Friday. (Note: Registration deadlines are earlier than most CEU classes because each class is tailored for the folks enrolled, so we require time to print the material that will be distributed for each class and gather supplies for the hands-on training.)

Registration Form

Don’t forget to sign up for our Master’s class, Sept 26-28, 2012. We only hold this class once a year. If you are interested in the State WDO Certified Operator Examination, Joe Parker (DACS) will hold a special review after the Master’s class with the exam on Saturday at Apopka MREC. Details at PMU Newsletter vol 2, issue 9.

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/