

Insec(tc)ure*:

Are you insecure about your insect cures?

A UT Urban IPM Lab Newsletter for the Pest Management Industry

Urban Pest Management Training Offered by the University of Tennessee

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We want to make you aware of the educational opportunities the UT Urban IPM program and the Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) offer pest management professionals working in and around structures, i.e., those with or needing category 7 pesticide applicator certification.

1. In the fall, we offer training to help PMPs study for the Entomological Society of America's (ESA's) Associate Certified Entomologist (ACE) exam. ESA states, "the ACE program has become the benchmark for professionalism in the pest management industry." The UT ACE Exam Prep consists of 12 educational sessions on Monday evenings, and a separate review session is provided too. This year the entire training will be held via Zoom to give folks throughout the state the opportunity to take this training. While the training is virtual, the exam takes place in person on December 12 at the UTIA Brehm Animal Science Building. However, you can arrange to have a virtual proctor for the exam. Details of the training can be found here, <https://epp.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/ACEPrepAnnouncement2022.pdf>. There is a discount if you sign up for the entire class rather than individual topics. Please contact Dr. Karen Vail, kvail@utk.edu, if

you have any questions. The training will be held if at least five people sign up by September 1.



The 8th Annual Tennessee Bed Bug, Cockroach and Rodent Management Meeting. Photo: Teneria Parker

2. On the first Wednesday in August, we offer an annual meeting on bed bug, cockroach and rodent management. This conference is unique because we have a mixed audience of pest management professionals, housing personnel, healthcare providers and social workers. We problem solve in diverse groups to allow participants to apply their personal experience with newly gained knowledge. In addition, we increase understanding among these groups, which can lead to

novel solutions. In 2022, Jerome Goddard (Mississippi State University), Changlu Wang (Rutgers University) and Ameya Gondhalekar (Purdue University) enlightened attendees on the health effects of urban pests, monitoring these pests and essential oils. The schedule can be found here <https://bedbugs.tennessee.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/210/2022/04/8thbedbugFLYER42122-1.pdf>. Mark your calendars for August 2, 2023.

3. Dr. Vail also speaks upon request on topics related to her research on ants, cockroaches, bed bugs, IPM in housing and schools, brown recluse and many other urban entomology topics. Please check her availability if your company needs a subject covered for training. Many classes are now offered via Zoom, thus saving time and fuel costs. There is no fee for this training unless it is one of the ACE classes.
4. The Urban IPM program cooperates with the Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) to offer quarterly in-person training (January, April, July and October) in Nashville for Tennessee licensing categories:
 - a. Wood-destroying Organisms (WDO) and
 - b. General Pest and Rodent Control (GRC).

The GRC training runs from 9 am to 1:30 pm CT, and the WDO training is from 12:30- 5:30 pm CT. In the past, we held the training the day before the in-person exam on the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA) campus. Now that the exam is given online, the timing of our training isn't as crucial. However, Dr. Hensley and I hope we can someday offer the exam in person the day after training. If you would find the exam given the day after in-person WDO and GRC training helpful, please send us an email so we can show TDA the support for this option. Details on the UT PSEP licensing training can be found at <https://psep.tennessee.edu/licensed-pest-control-operator/>

5. Drs. Hensley and Vail teach sections of TDA's Apprentice Termite Technician School which is held three times a year. Registration forms can be found here, <https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/businesses/pesticides/forms.html>.
6. Dr. Hensley and the PSEP program also provide in-person training for categories 3, 7, and 9. Training sessions are usually held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month in Knoxville (<https://psep.tennessee.edu/commercial-applicator/>). Individuals who would like to attend the initial certification training to help prepare them for the exam may register [online](#) or by contacting the PSEP office (865) 974-1286. Certification exams may be taken immediately following training if you have pre-registered through TDA's office. Contact the PSEP office for more information concerning training and examination. Initial certification is also offered in Jackson, Nashville and Murfreesboro at various times throughout the year so check PSEP's website (psep.utk.edu) for more information.
7. Are you needing Points / CEUs? If so, visit the PSEP website, select Certification for Commercial Applicators and look for Online Training. Also, remember that you may receive up to 6 hours of credit by attending an initial certification training session.

Reminder: If you have a valid certification, please ensure you have obtained enough credits to roll your certification into the next certification cycle. Check TDA's website, <https://raccoon.healthspace.com/clients/tda/state/weblive.nsf/pesticides.xsp>, to determine if your credits for past events are listed or contact TDA's office at 615-837-5148.

We are here to support the pest management industry. Not sure of an identification? Please bring it or send an image to your county Extension office or me. If you need new solutions to solve old or new pest problems, let us know.

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Disclaimer

This publication contains pesticide recommendations that are subject to change at any time. The recommendations in this publication are provided only as a guide. It is always the pesticide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. The label always takes precedence over the recommendations found in this publication.

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