IPM^3 Training Consortium

History and Overview

Overview and Target Audience

The IPM^3 Consortium was originally formed to meet the diverse Integrated Pest Management training needs of federal agencies such as the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the General Services Administration, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, US Geological Survey, General Services Administration, Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Forest Service, Agricultural Research Service, Economic Research Service, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, Foreign Ag Service, Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Transportation, US Agency for International Development. IPM^3 has now expanded its target audiences to include state/local government officials tasked with IPM, Extension Educators, Master Gardeners, 4-H staff, Crop Consultants, Pest Management Professionals, facility managers and supervisors and a wide array of Green Industry Professionals -- in fact, anyone who has an interest in becoming proficient in IPM implementation.

IPM^3, or 'IPM cubed', stands for 'Professional Program in Pest Management'. The IPM^3 Training Consortium is made up of IPM practitioners from Land Grant institutions, and federal agencies which are under a mandate to implement IPM. The University of Minnesota is the lead institution; the University of Arkansas and Purdue University are partners. The initial program was funded by a CSREES (Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; now the National Institute of Food and Agriculture) Innovations Grant and supplements, and by the University of Minnesota. Ongoing support has been provided by the North Central Regional IPM Center and by the USDA Invasive Species Program.

Goals and Structure

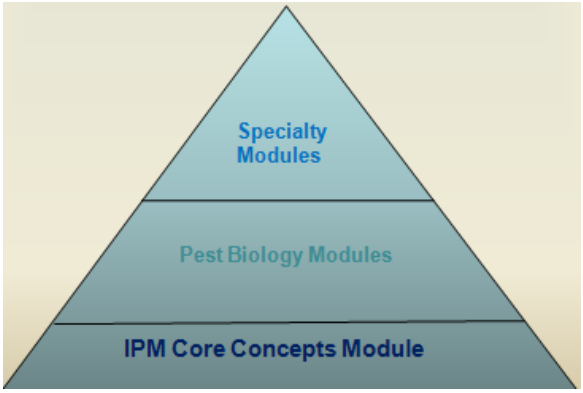
IPM^3 training is designed to reflect practical, real world content. Therefore, theoretical and academic content are only included to the extent that they are needed to understand the practical training.

Modules, the fundamental element of IPM^3 training, are the blocks on which courses are built with each course being made up of a specific set of modules. Continuing Education Certificates (CEUs) will be awarded for each module at the rate of 1.0 CEU for each 10 hours of module content. While modules can be taken alone, many people will be interested in a prescribed combination of modules that will lead to a Course Certificate. Certificates of Completion will be awarded for successful completion of modules and courses. Once taken, modules do not need to be repeated.

Modules

IPM^3 training modules are arranged in a 3-tiered hierarchy.

3-Tiered Training Program



IPM Core Concepts Module—Basic concepts about IPM and IPM Implementation, 15 hours of instruction, 1.5 CEUs, prerequisite for any pest management course certificate.
Pest Biology Modules—Introductions to: entomology, plant pathology, weed science, vertebrates. Each pest biology module will be a minimum of 5 hours instruction per topic, CEUs variable. At least one pest biology module is required for a Course Certificate. Some Course Certificates may require more pest biology modules.
Specialty Modules— Current Specialty modules include: Invasive Species (stand alone), IPM^3 for Facility Supervisors and Managers (stand alone), and Landscape and Turf. Additional specialty modules will be developed as interest and demand dictate. Course Certificates in specialty modules typically require 10-25 hours of instruction.

Stand Alone Specialty Courses

Some Specialty Modules are self-contained and will result in a Course Completion Certificate without taking additional modules. One such Specialty Course, IPM^3 for Facility Supervisors and Managers, focuses on facility evaluation, pest prevention, and construction of contracts for facility pest management. This course does not require the IPM Core Concepts Module as a prerequisite. The course includes a managerial overview of IPM that meets the needs of managers, supervisors, and contract management officers.

Course Certificates Example

Landscape and Turf

In this example, if you are new to IPM^3 you will take the IPM Core Concepts Module, 3 Pest Biology Modules (Arthropods, Plant Pathology, Weed Science) and finish with the Landscape and Turf Specialty Module. However, if you had previously completed the IPM Core Concepts Module and the Weed Management Pest Biology Module you would only need to take the Plant Pathology Pest Biology Module and the Landscape and Turf Specialty Module to receive a Landscape and Turf Course Certificate.

Benefits of IPM^3 Training

- Current, expert content.
- Electable topics to address agency and individual needs. Modules and courses can be added based on demand and available expertise.
- Cost effective: no travel and per diem cost to receive training.
- Consistent IPM message within an organization. This can provide the baseline for advanced training within an industry or agency.
- Asynchronous, on-line delivery allows students to access material on their own schedules anytime during a 6-week instructional period.

IPM³ Steering Committee

Co-chairs:

- Mark Ascerno, University of Minnesota, Department of Entomology
- Bob Nowierski, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

Federal agency members:

- Carol DiSalvo, National Park Service (NPS)
- Al Greene, General Services Administration (GSA)
- Doug Holy, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Tiffany Parson, Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
- Roger Sheley, Agricultural Research Service (ARS)

Land Grant members:

- Doug Jardine, Kansas State University, Department of Plant Pathology
- Mike McDonough, University of Minnesota, Department of Entomology
- Rob Wiedenmann, University of Arkansas, Department of Entomology
- Steve Yaninek, Purdue University, Department of Entomology

The IPM^3 Steering Committee also serves as the initial Curricula Committee.

To learn more, or to register for one of our training courses, please visit our website:
http:/www.umn.edu/ipm3

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