



## Pests and Pesticides in Child-serving Facilities: An IPM Newsletter

### Special Points of Interest

### What certifications do I need to apply pesticides inside schools?

Karen M. Vail

I received an inquiry last week about what moving pest control under a school's maintenance department would entail. Below I discuss the advantages and disadvantages of conducting pest control in-house and the pesticide applicator certification and licensing categories required.

#### Advantages/Disadvantages of Using School Personnel for Pest Control Services (In-House Pest Control)

School personnel providing pest control services may find it easier to communicate and develop a rapport with others in the school. Cooperation with all individuals occupying the school is needed for an IPM program to succeed. Pest control services can be combined with other maintenance jobs if the employee is certified in category 7 and working under a General Pest and Rodent Control (GRC) licensee. If managing wood-destroying organisms, a Wood-destroying Organism (WDO) license would also be required. Also, the in-house personnel are more likely to identify a pest problem before it becomes too apparent and can quickly change approaches if needed. Using in-house personnel will avoid developing a bid invitation and eliminate the dilemma of choosing a reputable and reliable firm. Greater control of personnel and quality of performance is provided through an in-house program.

The drawbacks to in-house pest control include finding a safe storage and disposal site for pesticides and equipment. In addition, the district's potential liability concerning pesticide use is probably higher in an in-house program. Finally, if a reentry interval is used that is greater than that listed on the label, such as 12 hours, overtime expenses could be incurred.

No experience is needed to take the Tennessee Department of Agriculture's category 7 pesticide applicator certification exam, but to be eligible to take the GRC and WDO licensing exam specific criteria must be met, including work experience and/or college degrees. See the green text box on the next page for licensing eligibility requirements. If a school system decides to go in-house, it may be best to hire someone certified in category 7 with at least 2 years of experience so they would be eligible to take the GRC licensing exam. I provide training for the GRC and WDO exam in cooperation with the UT Pesticide Safety Education Program once a quarter. Darrell Hensley provides category 7 training several times a month. In addition, category 7 individuals must obtain 30 continuing education units over a three-year span. As of June 30, 2023, 21 CEUs will be required for category 7. See [psep.tennessee.edu](http://psep.tennessee.edu) to understand pesticide certification, licensing, and training opportunities better. In addition, the UT Urban IPM Lab offers a 7-hr hands-on school IPM training upon request. Contact [kvail@utk.edu](mailto:kvail@utk.edu) if you are interested.

### WANTED: Joro spiders near you!



If found, please upload an image to [iNaturalist.org](http://iNaturalist.org) or send the image with location information to your local Extension agent.

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### **Advantages/Disadvantages of Using Contracted Pest Control Services**

Professional pest control personnel are usually more experienced with the techniques that safely and effectively control pests. School district personnel are not required to maintain contracted individuals' licenses, nor do they need to train the pest control technician. Potential liability could be reduced when using contracted services. The need for locating a special storage and disposal site for pesticides is eliminated. The district will avoid overtime pay for work performed after regular working hours. Communication between contracted individuals and other school personnel, such as custodians, may not be as easily developed as in an in-house program. Contracted pest control technicians may have limited flexibility to change approaches if the new method is not included in company protocols. School district personnel must develop a bid invitation for contracted services, and a reputable and reliable firm must be chosen.

Modified from Suggested Guidelines for Managing Pests in Tennessee's Schools: Adopting Integrated Pest Management <https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/pb1603.pdf>.

### **Rules of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture 0080-09-02-.03 and 0080-09-02-.05 (excerpted and modified)**

(1) Commercial applicators.

(a) License testing. Applicants for pest control operator licenses must first complete license testing. Prior to examination, applicants must:

1. Submit to the department or its designee a completed exam application on forms provided by the department;
2. Be at least 18 years old prior to examination;
3. Submit to the department or its designee payment of a Tier 4 examination fee under T.C.A. § 43-1-703(f);
4. Show proof of certification in a pesticide category required for the applicable pesticide license; and,
5. Show proof of experience and education requirements required for the license.

Applicants must have completed one of the following education and experience prerequisites.

For GRC:

- (i) Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university with a major or minor in a related course of study;
- (ii) One year of full-time work experience that required the applicable certification; and 12 college level semester credits in a related course of study; or,
- (iii) Two years of full-time work experience that required the applicable certification.

For WDO:

- (a) Masters or doctoral degree in entomology; and certificate from the Tennessee Apprentice Termite Technician School offered by the department;
- (b) One year of full-time work experience that required C07 certification; and a baccalaureate degree with a major or minor in a related course of study; or,
- (c) Two years of full-time work experience that required C07 certification.

6. Upon passage of a license exam, the applicant shall be eligible for receipt of the corresponding license pending payment of license fees. Absent extraordinary circumstances, if an applicant does not submit payment of applicable license fees within one year of the exam date, the exam passage shall expire, and the applicant shall be required to retake the exam prior to receiving a license.

## Need a Bed Bug Resource Box?

Karen M. Vail

Bed bugs are ectoparasites that feed on human blood and hitchhike into schools, although they rarely establish a breeding population. In June, we provided all Tennessee public school systems in attendance at the Tennessee School Plant Management Association's Annual Conference a box of bed bug resources. Each resource box contains a resin display of the bed bug stages to aid school personnel in identification of these pests, 20 copies of our six UT Extension bed bug publications (SP761, SP788, SP825, PB1763, PB1807, PB1894) and a BlackOut Bed Bug Detector. While only PB1807 directly relates to bed bug management in schools, the other publications are helpful to the parents of the school children and their pest management professionals.

Let us know if you would like a resource box too. And, should you desire someone to make a bed bug management presentation for your school system, please contact me or your local Extension agent (<https://utextension.tennessee.edu/office-locations-departments-centers/>).

## Wanted: Joro Spiders

Karen Vail

I'm cooperating with researchers in Tennessee, Georgia, and South Carolina to determine the distribution of Joro spiders in the southeast. If you need a refresher on Joro spiders see the photo to the right and the December 2021 newsletter at <https://schoolipm.tennessee.edu/ipm-newsletter-november-2021/>.

We are requesting that if you see Joro spiders in Tennessee to please take a photo and upload it with location coordinates to iNaturalist.org or send the image with coordinates to your county Extension agent to include in the PCLinic database. Last year, three Joro's were found in Tennessee near the Georgia line in Hamilton and Bradley counties, but none have been found this year. Please distribute this newsletter to folks you think would enjoy looking for spiders in the woods and neighborhoods.



Figure 1. Resin display of bed bug stages (left) and bed bug resource box (right).



Figure 2. A female Joro spider, *Trichonephila clavata* on the hand of a female Georgia Extension Specialist. Note the size of the spider and its golden web. Credit: Carly Mirabile, University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

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For more information about IPM in Tennessee schools and other facilities, or to view past issues of *Pests and Pesticides in Child-serving Facilities*, please visit <http://schoolipm.tennessee.edu>

### NATIONAL IPM INFORMATION

eXtension's Pests in the Home  
<https://pestsinthehome.extension.org/>

National School IPM  
[schoolipm.ifas.ufl.edu/](http://schoolipm.ifas.ufl.edu/)

IPM in Schools Texas  
<http://schoolipm.tamu.edu/>

IPM Institute of North America  
[www.ipminstitute.org/](http://www.ipminstitute.org/)

School IPM PMSP—all schools IPM by 2020 [https://  
 ipminstitute.org/projects/school-ipm-2020/](https://ipminstitute.org/projects/school-ipm-2020/)

EPA schools  
<http://www2.epa.gov/managing-pests-schools>

For further information about the IPM program at your school or in your county, contact your county Extension Agent or the school IPM Coordinator. For county agent contact information, please visit <https://utextension.tennessee.edu/office-locations-departments-centers/>

## Precautionary Statement

To protect people and the environment, pesticides should be used safely. This is everyone's responsibility, especially the user. Read and follow label directions carefully before you buy, mix, apply, store or dispose of a pesticide. According to laws regulating pesticides, they must be used only as directed by the label and registered for use in your state.

## 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.

Use of trade or brand names in this publication is for clarity and information; it does not imply approval of the product to the exclusion of others that may be of similar, suitable composition, nor does it guarantee or warrant the standard of the product. The author(s), the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture and University of Tennessee Extension assume no liability resulting from the use of these recommendations.

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