Urban and Structural Pest Management Training Programs at UGA

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Department of Entomology  
University of Georgia
UGA Griffin Programs (gabugs.uga.edu)

• 67 unique credit hours per year
• Strong GDAg Involvement
• Workshops:
  ✓ Termite (11/6 h; 4X per year-2 Spring/2 Fall)
  ✓ Bed Bug (5 h; once in Spring)
  ✓ Commercial IPM (5 h; once in Spring)
  ✓ 10-Week Certificate (24 h; 2X per year-Spring & Fall)
  ✓ School IPM (5 h; once in Fall)
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UGA Pest Management Certificate

• Targeted to individuals not currently in the industry, looking for a job change or new job, etc. Also appropriate for new employees in pest control, exam prep, etc.
  – Unique training opportunity via lab sessions
• One lecture per week for 10-weeks.
• 6:00 to 9:00 P.M.
• Offered in both Fall and Spring since 2006.
• 24 credits total
UGA Pest Management Certificate
A Graduating Class
1) **Introduction to the Pest Control Industry**  
(Dr. Ron Harrison, Orkin)

2) **Sales and Technology in the Pest Control Industry**  
(Mr. Jeff Dunn, Northwest Exterminators)

3) **Customer Service in the Pest Control Industry**  
(Mr. Hal Coleman, Consultant)

4) **Legal Issues Facing the Pest Control Industry**  
(Mr. Jay Barber)
UGA Pest Management Certificate

Technical Lectures

5) Basic Entomology and Principles of Insecticides

6) Biology and Management of Bees, Wasps, Blood Feeders, and Fabric & Paper Pests

7) Biology and Management of Wood-Infesting Beetles and Drywood Termites
UGA Pest Management Certificate

Technical Lectures

8) Biology and Management of Stored Product Pests, Spiders, and Occasional Invaders

9) Biology and Management of Flies, Ants, and Cockroaches

10) Principles of Urban IPM
About 10% of the collection are pinned specimens
Pinned Specimens
Specimens Not Pinned or in Alcohol
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- Webinar Series (12 hours/year).
- Unique speakers/content brings together cutting edge researchers with rural PMPs.
- 2 hours in February, April, June, August, October, and December.
- GDA Policy on Distance Ed has been the model for all states and provinces where credit is granted.
Do we Need a New Training Model?

1. Are regulatory requirements for training enough? (Every state’s different, but typically boils down to less than 10 hours a year of required training.)

2. Might we ever see an educational requirement (Associate or Bachelor’s Degree) for Certified operators? Tech School degree or certificate for technicians?

3. Do we train enough to make a difference? Are current requirements “difference making”?

4. Do we teach the most appropriate material? (maybe start teaching Problem Solving; Logic; Critical Thinking Skills?)

5. Should training include non-technical?

6. What’s the role of distance ed, social media in training?