

FY 2002 Project Progress Report

Delivery of Training in IPM Emphasizing
Biological Control for Sustainable Agriculture in
Florida

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Personnel Involved

- 1) Florida A&M University
 - a) Dr. Charles W. O'Brien, (Co-P.I.), Center for Biological Control
 - 2) University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
 - a) Dr. James P. Cuda, (P.I.), Entomology and Nematology Department
 - b) Dr. Norman C. Leppla, (Co-P.I.), Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Coordinator
 - c) Daniel Sonke, Assistant IPM Coordinator
 - d) Thomas Fasulo, Entomology and Nematology Department
 - e) Extension Computing Staff - Entomology and Nematology Department
 - f) Marion Douglas, Entomology and Nematology Department
 - g) Gary Brinen, Alachua County Extension
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Objectives

- 1) Develop a database of Florida's major pests, their hosts and the natural enemies that have been or are currently used for managing the pests in each of the 67 counties.
- 2) Organize and review pertinent literature on the compatibility of pesticides currently labeled for use in Florida with appropriate natural enemies, and incorporate this information into the aforementioned database.
- 3) Provide assistance in developing training materials, e.g., slide sets, PowerPoint presentations, fact sheets, EDIS documents, etc. on Florida's major pests and their natural enemies, and deliver on-site and videoconference in-service training programs to Extension Professionals.
- 4) Provide assistance establishing and managing demonstration projects that will provide practical training in the proper use of natural enemies.

Activities/Accomplishments (by objective)

- 1) In 2001, Thomas Fasulo, Daniel Sonke, and the staff of the Extension Computing Lab created a Web site for the IPM and Biological Control program (<http://biocontrol.ifas.ufl.edu>) which includes an online database of extension and internet resources related to pests and beneficials in the following categories:
 - a) Biting and Stinging Organisms
 - b) Fruit (Citrus)
 - c) Fruit (Non-citrus)
 - d) Household and Structural
 - e) Natural Areas and Biodiversity
 - f) Nursery and Forest
 - g) Ornamental, Turf, and Landscape
 - h) Pet and Livestock
 - i) Vegetable and Field Crops
 - j) Natural Enemies
 - k) Nematodes
 - l) Plant Diseases
 - m) Weeds
 - n) Entomopathogens

Additions and improvements to the Web site are a continuous project for the IPM and Biological Control program.
- 2) Web and print resources related to Compatibility of Chemicals with Natural Enemies have been compiled and made available from the IPM and Biological Control Web site (http://biocontrol.ifas.ufl.edu/Natural_enemies/sideeffects.htm).
- 3) The IPM and Biological Control Web site (<http://biocontrol.ifas.ufl.edu/materials.htm>) currently provides access to 5 PowerPoint presentations on Biological Control, 20 PowerPoint presentations on IPM, and 1 tutorial on mosquito management. Further PowerPoint additions are in progress. In addition, the IPM and Biological Control Web site provides access to fact sheets, EDIS documents, reports, newsletters, and photo galleries related to pests and their natural enemies

On April 10, 2002, the IPM and Biological Control program hosted a statewide videoconference in-service training for extension professionals titled "Integrated Pest Management Emphasizing Biological Control in Florida's Agricultural, Urban and Natural Environments." The in-service training was videoconferenced live to and from 8 research and education centers around the state and was attended by 62 participants. Videotapes of the presentation have been distributed to an additional 9 participants, one of whom used the video tape in a meeting of additional extension faculty.

The IPM and Biological Control program has completed the application process to become a state major program "Delivery of IPM Information and Technology Emphasizing Biological Control in Florida."

- 4) The IPM and Biological Control program is sponsoring a demonstration project on the biological control of mites in strawberry production by Dr. Oscar Liburd and doctor of plant medicine graduate student Ashley Johnson. Another demonstration project is targeted towards Master Gardeners. Alachua County Extension's Master Gardener Program and doctor of plant medicine graduate student Esther Dunn are creating extension materials for demonstrating the use of natural enemies and IPM in the home landscape.

Additional demonstration projects are planned. See Future Activities below.

Workshop training

See above section, item 3, second paragraph.

Market/Target Audience

The IPM and Biological Control program has developed an effective network of extension specialists, county faculty, and mentoring farmers dedicated to delivering biological control technology to other county extension agents, conventional and organic growers, Master Gardeners and Naturalists, homeowners, landscape maintenance operators, and pest consultants.

Future Activities

Planned future demonstration projects include two joint projects with the FAMU Center for Biological Control: "Detecting and Controlling Grape Root Borer in North Florida Vineyards," and "Demonstrating Emerging Pest Management Technologies to Resource-Limited Producers" (involving hot pepper production).

As stated previously, the program Web site is a continual work in progress, with additional publications being collected and published online.

In 2002, a survey of Florida extension faculty involved in IPM was taken. From this survey, a list of IPM and biological control extension needs has been developed and will be used to plan further activities which will meet those needs.