



University of Florida Department of Housing and Residence Education

The University of Florida Department of Housing and Residence Education Achieves GREEN SHIELD CERTIFIED Status for Excellence in Pest Control

February 10, 2011 -- The University of Florida Department of Housing and Residence Education (DOHRE) has recently achieved Green Shield Certification of its Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program, becoming the first university program in the U.S. to earn the distinction. The program underwent a rigorous on-site evaluation to earn the credential offered by the IPM Institute of North America, Inc.

The UF DOHRE IPM Program has been several years in the making. In 2001, the Department began to eliminate the general applications of liquid pesticides on a regularly scheduled basis; in 2003, liquid treatments that had historically been applied during intersession were eliminated. Under the leadership of Wayne Walker, UF DOHRE's Senior Pest Control Technician, the Department's commitment to IPM grew from there.

Walker notes that the main drive behind the institution of IPM was due to the unique situation of residents in UF's Graduate and Family Housing apartments. During Walker's initial years with the DOHRE, "almost 85% of the residents [in Graduate Housing] were international students and we had almost 200 children under the age of seven," states Walker, "These young children and the challenges of language barriers necessitated that a less intrusive and safer pest management procedure be implemented." IPM appeared to be the clear solution.

In 2007, University of Florida graduate student, Kevyn Juneau teamed up with Walker and developed educational IPM materials to distribute to residents of the Graduate and Family Housing units. The Department also distributed IPM Cleaner Solution bottles with instructions on how to mix a soapy water solution, which proved to be effective for the in-home treatment of insects. Through these efforts, family housing residents were able to witness first-hand the effectiveness and advantages of IPM over traditional pest control methods.

The DOHRE IPM Program has seen many successes, the most memorable of them being a major rodent issue in a UF traditional residence hall. “It could have been very easy to begin a baiting program,” Walker admits, “however, the exclusion and trapping method was chosen.” It proved to be the correct choice. UF DOHRE staff spent significant time sealing up entryways and pipe chases, utilizing snap traps to eliminate the existing problem. The problem was solved and has yet to return.

IPM is a safer solution to DOHRE’s pest problems, in addition to being cost effective. Resident pest management satisfaction surveys have shown a continual climb and the Department pest control budget has been reduced by over 50%. Most importantly, DOHRE has drastically reduced the amount of pesticides that residents are exposed to.

According to Dr. Thomas Green, president of the IPM Institute of North America, Inc., “The Housing Department at University of Florida is a great example of IPM working to reduce pest complaints and pesticide use. This achievement truly demonstrates the Department’s serious commitment to UF students’ health and quality of life, and serves as a great example to campuses across the U.S.”

Green Shield Certified is operated by the IPM Institute of North America, Inc., an independent, non-profit organization based in Madison, Wisconsin. Modeled after the Institute’s award-winning IPM STAR program for schools, Green Shield Certified is available to pest control companies and services, as well as facilities other than schools.