

Commercial Landscape Pest Management School
Clemson Extension Service
Aiken County

Suzanne Holmes
Clemson University Extension –Aiken County
1555 Richland Avenue East
Aiken, SC 29801
sbholme@clermson.edu

A Landscape Integrated Pest Management school was held in Aiken to educate landscape and maintenance professionals in the horticulture industry on pest biology and management practices in order to have less and more judicious pesticide use, have better scouting procedures, identify pests correctly, reduce nonpoint pollution of our water supply, and have a more environmentally friendly product for their clientele. The school was held on seven nights in March and April at Aiken Technical College. Seventeen people participated in the school. Extension specialists and county agents were the presenters. The attendees received the *Georgia Pest Management Handbook*, *Pest of Landscape Trees and Shrubs*, and a hand lens.

Topics discussed and presenters were as follows:

Principles of IPM Insect Diagnosis and Control Strategies Pesticide Safety	Suzanne Holmes County Agent-Aiken
Diseases and Control Strategies	Tony Watson County Agent-Edgefield
Weed Identification and Control Strategies	Dr. Ted Whitwell Clemson University Horticulture Department
Water Management	Bryan Smith County Agent-Laurens

In evaluating the program, a pre-test and post-test and evaluation sheet were used. Fourteen people took the test and post-test. Nine people made 60 or below. Of these, all passed the post-test with a score of eighty or above. One person made a 10 and increased his score to 70. Four made a 70 or better on the pre-test and increased their score by 10 to 30 points. The participants also completed an evaluation on the speakers and effectiveness on the program. The results from the evaluations are graphed on page 5.

Ten pesticide applicator recertification credits were given for these classes.

As a result of these classes, pest identification by the landscape professional was increased. They also indicated that instead of reaching for a chemical, they will look for alternative measures from the integrated pest management approach. Also, some of the class indicated that they were increasing the amount of scouting as a result of the program. Another positive outcome is that they have engaged my expertise as a county agent more and also use of the plant problem clinic. Of particular appeal to them was the chapter in the *Pests of Landscape Trees and Shrubs* book on Problem Solving Tables. The guides in this chapter summarize damage symptoms that occur on common landscape genera, the probable causes, and comments which direct them to pictures and control options. The Integrated Pest Management School helped me reach a clientele that I feel needed more education on Integrated Pest Management. Also as a result of this school, we are forming a Green Industry Association to hold meetings on a regular basis on topics that are of interest to them.

Photos Taken at the Commercial Landscape Pest Management School

Photo 1. Landscape Pest Management students trying to identify Ted Whitwell's "killer weeds".



Photo 2. Dr. Whitwell giving a crash course on weed identification techniques.



Photo 3. Carl Singley looking at a plant sample to identify the problem.



Photo 4. Landscaper James Darley using the microscope to find spores on a diseased leaf.



Evaluation of Landscape IPM Workshop

The following seminars were rated according to the usefulness to the attendee: excellent, good, average, fair, poor.

