

Section IX: Extension and Consulting: Update and Notes from the Field

**A PEST AND BENEFICIAL INSECT SHORT COURSE PROGRAM FOR
THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST: TRAIN-THE-TRAINER**

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The correct identification of pest insects is critical to producers' success in adopting an integrated and sustainable approach to insect management. It is also vital to increase awareness and understanding of roles beneficial insects play in an ecological approach to insect management. This multi-state training program (20-hour short course) for Extension faculty, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service field staff, crop consultants and certified Master Gardeners from Oregon, Washington, and Idaho trained future instructors. Trainees will then teach others in insect identification and integrated pest management by using the "train-the-trainer" methodology.

Course

Two courses were held in Hermiston, OR (May 3-5 and May 6-8, 2010), and one in Colfax, WA (June 2-4, 2010) with about twenty participants per session. The training project also distributed insect identification and management materials so that new trainers have resources to train others in insect collection, identification and control. Insect management information was available at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/umatilla/insect-id>. Students were evaluated with a pre and post training survey at the training program. These projects broaden agricultural professionals' exposure to sustainable practices by increasing skills and abilities in ecological insect management strategies.

Results

Participants in the "Train-the-Trainer" short course were both extension clientele such as crop consultants, agronomists and trained Master Gardeners plus Master Gardener coordinators, and Extension faculty. This combination of backgrounds created a dynamic group of participants that were highly motivated to learn with excellent potential to extend the information to their local communities and their clientele such as producers, home gardeners and school students. All participants agreed to provide 10 hours of community service following the training teach others about insect identification and integrated pest management practices.

The "Train-the-Trainer" short course was an excellent example of bringing together different disciplines such as crop science, horticulture, and entomology in a collaborative effort. Stephen Van Vleet, Washington State University Extension Faculty, was our partner and helped in not only in planning and facilitating the training in Colfax, Washington, but offered his help in instructing students. Christopher Marshall, Oregon State Arthropod Collection Curator, located in Corvallis was one of our instructors, plus brought many insects from the OSU insect collection to use in the training.

Impacts summary

- *58 participants with diverse backgrounds such as University Extension faculty in Oregon, and Washington, crop consultants, and certified Master Gardeners from Oregon, and Washington, and Idaho were trained. Participants rated the Short Course **overall quality at 5.9** on a scale of 1-6 with 6 being the highest in a post short course evaluation survey.*
- Training participants in insect identification and management strategies with materials resulted in improved skill levels. A pre- and post-survey was conducted at each short course. Participants' survey results showed increased knowledge of insect identification from 2.7 to 4.2 on a scale of 1-5 with 5 being the highest. Their knowledge of IPM also increased from 3.8 to 4.6.
- Mini collections created by short course participants for the purpose of insect identification and introducing beneficial insects are being used as their training materials in local agricultural and community outreach and education events. These mini collections went home with the trainees thus dispersing them across a three state region.
- Increased knowledge and use of on-line insect identification, biological control and management resources by trainers and the broader agricultural community.

An insect webpage was created and added to the Umatilla County Extension website as a place to provide information about the class with the syllabus and handouts readily available. For more information visit <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/umatilla/insect-id>