

Integrated Pest Management Program

Monthly Newsletter

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SPECIALIST SPOTLIGHT

Get to know the specialists stationed throughout the state of Georgia that make up the IPM Program.

Ash Sial

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Dr. Ash Sial joined the UGA department of entomology in 2013 to help improve integrated pest management practices being used by Georgia's blueberry farmers. Integrated pest management involves modified growing practices and targeted use of pesticides to control crop pests when necessary.

Before coming to Georgia, Dr. Sial had extensive training in agricultural entomology from various institutions. Dr. Sial earned his Ph.D. in Entomology from Washington State University where he worked with apple growers to develop sustainable IPM programs for major pests of tree fruits. After graduation, he accepted a Post-Doctoral Research Scientist position at University of California, Berkeley and worked with winegrape growers to develop sustainable IPM programs aimed at managing exotic and emerging arthropod pests such as vine mealybug, and the diseases transmitted by mealybugs such as grapevine leafroll disease. He then joined Cornell University to investigate various aspects of biology and ecology of an invasive insect pest – spotted wing drosophila (SWD), which has

recently emerged as a devastating insect pest of small- and stone-fruits in the United States.

Currently, he serves as the blueberry entomologist and IPM Coordinator for Georgia, and primarily focuses on developing sustainable management strategies for SWD and other pests of blueberries in order to better support all stakeholders, including Extension agents and commercial blueberry producers. His research program has successfully secured over \$7.0 million in competitive grants through federal and state agencies as well as private industry. More specifically, he led a multistate consortium of researchers from 10 major land-grant Universities and won \$2.0 million from USDA NIFA through the Organic Research and Education Initiative to develop sustainable organic strategies to control SWD. This successful collaboration resulted in a second \$2.0 million award from OREI to continue to develop more long-term strategies to control this devastating invasive pest in organic systems. "I am glad to have the opportunity to lead this collaborative effort to help organic farmers develop effective management strategies to control this devastating pest in a more sustainable manner." He is also part of two other multi-regional groups funded by the USDA NIFA Specialty Crop Research Initiative to develop sustainable strategies to control SWD and another invasive pest - the brown marmorated stink bug.

He has published numerous peer-reviewed papers, delivered research and Extension presentations including invited guest lectures and keynote addresses. He has also served in professional societies, including Entomological Society of America (ESA), in a leadership role at

the regional and national levels. He has been recognized for excellence in research productivity and professional leadership at the regional and national level with several prestigious awards including the John Henry Comstock Award, the Excellence in Early Career Award and the Future Leader in IPM award. ■

IN THIS ISSUE

Specialist Spotlight	1
Upcoming Events	2
Featured Creature	2
Welcome Aboard	3
From the Field	4
Media Mentions	5
Funding Opportunities	8

UGA IPM INFORMATION

The submission deadline for the November newsletter is October 25, 2019. If you would like an article written about an upcoming event or project, please email ipm@uga.edu.

Have questions about the newsletter, website or basic information? Contact us at ipm@uga.edu!

Have comments or suggestions about the newsletter redesign? Be sure to fill out our [survey](#) to let us know your thoughts.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THIS MONTH

October 9 - [Invasive Species First Detector Program](#) | 9:00AM
Gwinnett Technical College

October 16 - [Structural Pest Management Webinar Series - Spiders and Flies](#) | 3:00 - 5:00PM

October 15 - 17 - [Sunbelt Ag Expo](#)
Moultrie, GA

Oct 18 & 30 - [Green Industry Update](#) | 8:00AM - 4:00PM
Gwinnett & Cherokee Co. (Resp.)

SAVE THE DATE

Nov 4 - 6 - [Georgia Association of County Agricultural Agents \(GACAA\) Annual Meeting](#) | Dublin, GA

Nov 13 - [Structural Pest Management Webinar Series - Cockroaches & Ants](#) | 3:00 - 5:00PM

Nov 12 - [D.W. Brooks Lecture](#)
3:30PM | Athens, GA

Jan 9 - 12 - [Southeast Regional Fruit and Vegetable Conference](#) | Savannah, GA

Jan 22 - 25 - [Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group \(SAWG\) Conference](#) | Little Rock, AR

Feb 7 - 8 - [Georgia Organics Conference and Expo](#)
Athens, GA

For more events, please visit the [UGA Extension Calendar](#)

FEATURED CREATURE

Cowpea Curculio

(Coleoptera, Curculionidae)
Chalcodermus aeneus Boheman

Description:

Immature stages – Females oviposit eggs, which are white, oval in shape, and are less than a centimeter in length, into pods. These consequently hatch into small white grubs that damage the seed (middle image). The duration of the egg stage is three to six days. The duration of the four larval instars of the grub is between six to nine days under summer conditions. The grub has been observed to remain in the pod to feed and develop for up to twenty-seven days under cooler conditions. The grubs eat their way out of the pod, drop to the ground and dig into the soil several inches before it pupates for a couple of weeks. Adults emerge after 1-2 weeks in the summer to several months in the winter.

Adult stages – Cowpea curculio adults are black, oval, robust looking, and about 5 mm in length (top image). Females can lay nearly three-hundred eggs in a forty-five day period.

Biology:

Life Cycle – The overwintering stage is the adult which can live for several months in a state of hibernation or diapause. They can be found in the soil or organic debris in the winter, but by April, adults start to appear in snap beans, early planted cowpeas, or in non-baited traps (bottom image). These reproduce mainly in the late spring cowpea crop with adults peaking in May to June and then the second generation peaks in August to September. We have documented that reduced egg lay occurs in September and later, likely due to weevils going into diapause to prepare for overwintering.

Seasonal Distribution – There are two distinct generations of the curculio in Georgia, but a December peak in adult activity has been observed in some years, so a third generation is not ruled out.

Damage to Crop:

The damage to cowpea (also known as blackeyed pea or southern pea) is primarily to the pod and seed production (middle image). Severe damage can result in a complete loss of flowers and pods and typically an increase in vegetative vine growth. Grubs present in harvested seed also present a contamination problem.

Management:

The cowpea curculio can be challenging to monitor because they feign death, making scouting practices difficult. Another challenge, is that unfortunately, the cowpea curculio has become tolerant to pyrethroid insecticides which was the primary means of control during the flowering stage of the crop. Planting the crop for a late September pod set can avoid some damage.

David Riley, Stormy Sparks, and Sydni Barwick
University of Georgia ■



WELCOME ABOARD

UGA IPM Program Welcomes Two Arrivals

by Emily Cabrera, IPM Communications Coordinator, University of Georgia - Athens Campus



The Integrated Pest Management Program recently hired a new communications coordinator, Emily Cabrera, to help strengthen the outreach of the program to Extension agents throughout the state. The IPM program is a team of faculty in various fields of structural and landscape pest research, who operate throughout Georgia. IPM research focuses on finding the most sustainable management strategies for addressing insect pests, diseases and weeds using an integrated approach that incorporates cultural practices as well as the judicious use of chemical inputs in conventional and organic production.

Emily earned a Bachelor's of Forest Resources from UGA and then spent several years building a diverse repertoire of agricultural experience - as a technician with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, as an environmental consultant and then as an assistant manager on an organic produce farm before returning to UGA for her Master's in Agricultural and Environmental Education. After graduation, Emily entered her career in Extension, first as an ANR agent in Fulton county, and most recently as the GA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program assistant.



Harvesting high-tunnel greens for restaurants, CSA, and farmer's market in 2012 at Woodland Gardens.

Emily's based out of Athens, and IPM outreach will primarily involve writing monthly newsletters, managing social media campaigns, and performing an overhaul of the Integrated Pest Management website to become a platform for uniting the various commodity websites in one place, and improving clarity and usability. Emily is currently working hard to coordinate updates to the annual Pest Management Handbook, which will be available in the new year. The Georgia PMH is highly regarded through the southeast as a resource for pest management strategies, and Emily will be working with a team these next few years to digitize the entire handbook which will allow specialists to update information in real-time and will make the handbook an accessible tool anytime, anywhere. Big things are on the horizon for the IPM Program, and Emily's excited to help foster stronger ties between research and the incredible Extension agents who are 'boots on the ground'. If you'd like Emily to help advertise a workshop or event, or have a story you'd like to submit for the IPM newsletter, email her at ipm@uga.edu or call (706)542-5783. ■



Another welcome addition to the IPM Program is Courtney Brisse, who joined the team to manage the Integrated Pest Management Lab here on the Athens campus. Courtney is a triple dawg, who received her Bachelor's degree in Wildlife, and two Master's degrees, one in Forest Resources, and the other in Entomology - all from the University of Georgia's Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources. Her research focused on bark

beetles associated with hemlock woolly adelgid infestations and the impacts of silviculture on bark beetle communities in loblolly pine plantations. She also conducted research on sap beetles in fruit orchards, for which she created an identification tool to aid farmers in proper identification and management strategies for controlling sap beetles.



Checking pheromone traps for bark beetles in north Georgia

It was through this process of building real-world tools that Courtney understood the importance of outreach in supporting Georgia agriculture. After graduation, Courtney pursued a career in Extension, as the Cobb county ANR agent, to fulfill this desire for bridging the gap between research and the public.

In her current role as lab coordinator, Courtney ensures all lab functions are in constant order for efficiency and meeting deadlines. Currently, Courtney is working on several large research in coordination with team members across the U.S. looking at integrated management solutions for minimizing the impact SWD has on agricultural crop production. She is also working with Dr. Sial to begin working on her PhD in early 2021. "Returning to the Entomology Department is a dream come true. I am thrilled to be a part of such a productive lab, working on research that will have a positive impact on the blueberry farmers here in Georgia." ■

[Return to Index]



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

EXTENSION

Integrated Pest Management Program

FROM THE FIELD

Articles and news stories pertaining to IPM field work written by IPM members.

Georgia Pecans: Leaf Drop Scorch - What's Causing It?

by Lenny Wells, University of Georgia Extension Pecan Specialist

We have reached the time of year when we begin to see a lot of odd things happening to the foliage of pecan trees. The long season is coming to a close and the trees are beginning to shift gears a little as some nutrients have moved from the leaves to the nuts and others will soon be going from the leaves to the roots.

I have had a number of calls recently regarding some leaf scorching/dropping. There are a number of things at play here and deciphering which one you are dealing with can be tricky. In some cases the foliage is scorching at random locations on the leaflet and there is no set pattern to the scorching. In most cases this will turn out to be anthracnose. Anthracnose is a complex of minor foliar pathogens that cause leaf scorch but they infect several weeks before you see symptoms. Once you begin to see the symptoms there is nothing you can do about it.



Anthracnose

This usually occurs when we spray a lot of Elast or Tin during the nut sizing period. While these materials are great on nut scab, they don't do much for anthracnose. Rotating in Absolute, Amistar Top, or any Group 3 + Group 11 fungicide between Elast sprays or including a group 3 fungicide or a phosphite with Elast can help minimize your chances for infection. Sometimes, the timing just catches you if you happen to be spraying Elast when the conditions for anthracnose occur even if you are rotating.



Terminal die-back

Another type of scorching that may occur is terminal die-back, caused by a fungus called *Neofusicoccum*. With this problem, the compound leaf will begin to scorch from the tip backward, often killing the whole compound leaf, including the midrib or leaf stem. This looks bad but rarely causes enough damage to be harmful. It infects under similar conditions as anthracnose and the same chemistry should control it; however, once you see it, it's too late.



Bacterial leaf scorch

Bacterial leaf scorch may appear usually on Cape Fear or Pawnee trees when they become stressed. This problem results from a bacteria that plugs up the xylem (water conducting tissue) of the plant so that the symptoms mimic that of trees suffering from drought. We are learning that the bacterium causing this disease is likely out there in almost every tree of any variety and in many species of trees aside from pecan. Symptoms are most easily expressed in Cape Fear and Pawnee trees (and a few others). Symptom expression is usually triggered by a stress event such as crop load, an emitter stopping up or some other form of stress. There is nothing you can spray for this disease. Symptoms usually go away the following year if the scorching did not get too severe and the stress problem is corrected. Pruning often helps in severe cases.

You may also observe leaves turning yellow and falling off, which is the most common problem I see right now. This is the result of shading and/or dry weather and may result in the loss of compound leaves or leaflets. If shading is the culprit, you will see most of the leaf yellowing and shedding occurring within the inside of the tree canopy in the shade. Nothing you can do for it if you are seeing it currently but this may be a sign you need to open up the orchard to more sunlight either through tree thinning or hedging.



Shading/early leaf senescence

The dry weather we have had over the last few weeks has led to some early leaf senescence that will also look like the symptoms of shading. This will normally occur where trees are not receiving enough water. Up until about now, you should have been running your irrigation systems at full capacity to fill the kernels if you have a crop. Most nuts I have cut since the end of last week are full of kernel at this point. This means you can cut back on the water but by no means should you cut it off.

Your irrigation should still be at 50-60% of full capacity, cutting back to 40% in October and continuing to water until you are about a week away from shaking. Many Pawnee orchards are already to this point and if you plan on shaking Pawnee within the next week you should turn the water off now but don't be surprised if you start to see some leaves drop after several days. Turning off irrigation about 5 days ahead of shaking Pawnee helps to minimize shaker damage to the bark. ■

[[Return to Index](#)]



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

EXTENSION

Integrated Pest Management Program

MEDIA MENTIONS

Articles and news stories pertaining to IPM field work written by outside sources.

UGA Extension peanut agronomist advises dryland farmers to begin digging crops

by Clint Thompson



Farmer Donald Chase gives a peanut digging demonstration during the Georgia Peanut Tour on September 19, 2019.

Georgia's recent hot, dry weather has dryland peanut farmers making tough decisions about when to dig their crops, according to Scott Monfort, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension peanut agronomist.

Since much of south Georgia has experienced little to no rainfall in the past month and even less is expected over the next few weeks, Monfort is encouraging farmers to move forward with digging their crops.

"We're still not going to have rain for another month, maybe three weeks. To me, if you've got a crop right now, you probably want to get it," Monfort said. "If your crop is wilting during the day time and not recovering at night, and you don't have any moisture at all, then I'd probably get it."

To determine if their crop is mature enough for digging, peanut farmers sample about five areas in the field to acquire a total of 200 peanuts for the maturity analysis. Monfort said dryland producers experienced "split crops" early in this year's harvest season based on the maturity profile board analysis.

A "split crop" refers to a sample of peanuts where approximately half of the peanuts are near maturity while the other half is very immature. This happens when the peanut plants experience hot, dry temperatures, which typically occurs in dryland fields, or fields without access to irrigation.

Lack of rainfall and extremely hot conditions cause a disruption in the blooming and/or pod set for a period of time.

Then farmers face a tough decision; how do they proceed? With half of their sample close to maturity and half that is not, should a grower risk the peanut pods that are ready with hopes that the rest will eventually mature?

"What farmers have to start doing there is determining, 'Where's my money?' Do they have enough in that front group that's mature enough to say, 'That's my crop'? If those peanuts are good quality, most of the time I would suggest that the farmer go ahead and dig to grab those," Monfort said. "Especially since the forecast is not calling for much, if any, rain in the near future. It's too big of a risk to think those

immature peanuts will mature up at some point. There's no guarantee whatsoever. We can make a choice but it's a hard one. The later it gets, the more risky it gets."

One positive outcome of the recent dry weather is that it has created perfect conditions for farmers who are in the process of harvesting their peanuts. Peanuts in irrigated fields are drying very quickly after being dug out of the ground. According to Monfort, it usually takes five to seven days for peanuts to dry. That has been reduced to three to four days.

He estimates that 15% to 20% of this year's crop has already been harvested. ■



Terrell County Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent Seth McAllister sorts peanuts out on a maturity board during the Georgia Peanut Tour on September 19, 2019.

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[[Return to Index](#)]



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

EXTENSION

Integrated Pest Management Program

MEDIA MENTIONS

Articles and news stories pertaining to IPM field work written by outside sources.

Adjusting your lawn care now will help turf thrive later

by Clint Thompson

Summer 2019 delivered hot, dry weather with sporadic rainfall. With fall approaching, now is the time to adjust your turfgrass management program to promote a smooth transition into dormancy and green-up next spring.

The height of the warm-season turfgrass growing season spans from May to October. Given average conditions — regular rainfall and moderate temperatures — Bermuda grass, zoysia grass, St. Augustine grass, centipede grass and other warm-season species respond quickly to cultural and maintenance practices such as mowing, fertilizing, aerating, topdressing and weed management.

From mid- through late summer, rainfall across Georgia has been variable, with some areas receiving average rain and other areas experiencing drought. Moisture stress in turfgrasses can be recognized in the early stages by a dull, bluish-gray cast. Additionally, take note of footprints and tire tracks in the turf that do not rebound.

For areas with a lack of rain, applying irrigation can help spur grass growth.

Follow these tips from University of Georgia Cooperative Extension for managing turfgrass as it transitions into dormancy:

1. Raise the cutting height within the recommended mowing range
2. Do not apply nitrogen-containing fertilizers
3. Modify herbicide programs during high temperatures and moisture stress
4. Water deeply and infrequently
5. Mulch clippings versus bagging them, or "grasscycle"
6. Use water-conserving and drought-tolerant turfgrasses

Raise cutting height

Turfgrass stress can be reduced by using a sharp mower blade and raising the cutting height by a half inch or to the tallest allowable height of the recommended mowing range during drought. A clean cut reduces moisture loss through wounds



Insufficient production & storage of photosynthates during fall transition into dormancy can translate to issues during spring green-up. Drought-stressed turfgrass in August 2016 (left) was able to recover prior to dormancy following appreciable rainfall in September (right). Much of Georgia's turfgrass is currently drought-stressed, & transition to dormancy is quickly approaching.

and minimizes entry points for disease. Taller shoots promote deeper roots and a dense canopy can help to reduce ground surface temperatures and conserve moisture. Grasscycling can also help to conserve moisture.

Avoid nitrogen applications

As grasses move into dormancy they need to "harden off." Nitrogen fertilization encourages new shoot growth, which directs plant sugars and other metabolites away from storage organs (e.g., rhizomes, stolons and crown). These storage organs and sugars provide energy for the grass to green-up the next spring. By allowing the plant to harden off and accumulate sugars in the storage structures, the grass is better able to survive winter stresses and recover next year.

Modify herbicide programs

Many herbicides act upon plant growth processes and can be less effective during periods of drought when weeds are not actively growing. In addition, certain herbicides may cause damage to drought-stressed turf or nontarget landscape plants due to volatilization and drift during high temperatures. Review pesticide labels for specific information regarding temperature requirements, watering requirements, and proper application.

Water deeply and infrequently

The optimum watering schedule can be roughly determined by observing the number of days that pass between signs of moisture stress. Apply sufficient water to saturate the root zone to a depth of 6 to 8 inches.

Clay soils and sloped areas may require staggered watering intervals to allow time for water infiltration between cycles and to prevent runoff. Irrigating in the early morning conserves water by reducing evaporation and drift. A good practice is to align watering schedules with drought-management rules so, in the event of a declared drought, the appropriate watering program is already in place. The 2010 Water Stewardship Act permits lawn watering between the hours of 4 p.m. and 10 a.m.

Use water-conserving and drought-tolerant turfgrass cultivars

The UGA Turfgrass Breeding Program continues to make excellent strides in developing improved cultivars with low water use and high drought tolerance. For new installations, or where turfgrass replacement is needed, look for improved cultivars such as 'TifTuf' Bermuda grass. Visit www.GeorgiaTurf.com for more information on selecting turfgrasses. ■

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[[Return to Index](#)]



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

EXTENSION

Integrated Pest Management Program

MEDIA MENTIONS

Articles and news stories pertaining to IPM field work written by outside sources.

UGA CAES part of extensive research study aimed at whitefly management

by Clint Thompson



Researchers from three research institutions are using a \$3.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to fight whiteflies on vegetable crops using an integrated approach. Scientists from the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES), Fort Valley State University and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) in Charleston, S.C., will combine their expertise to collaborate on finding short- and long-term solutions to fight the pest.

"The scientists that are part of this grant are studying all aspects of whitefly biology and management to try to find weaknesses that can be exploited for management," said UGA vegetable entomologist Stormy Sparks. He is one of the researchers on the UGA team, which includes entomologists, plant pathologists, virologists, breeders and vegetable specialists. The scientists will rely on one another's specialties for the duration of the five-year grant.

"My role involves finding resistance to the whitefly-transmitted virus complex in snap bean germplasm, advancing breeding lines and conducting research to find the genetic basis of resistance," said Bhabesh Dutta, a UGA Extension plant pathologist on the Tifton campus and member of the research team. "We'll then give that information to the breeder so that they can introgress resistance into elite varieties."

Whiteflies are responsible for transmitting

multiple viruses, including cucurbit leaf crumple virus and cucurbit yellow stunting disorder virus. According to UGA crop loss estimates for fall 2017, these viruses caused between 30% and 50% crop loss in squash and cucumbers and nearly 80% crop loss in snap beans that year. "This project gives us an opportunity to think long term. It's not going to be a quick fix. We'll take baby steps to understand the system, understand the problem, and then try to solve it," Dutta said.

UGA entomologist Babu Srinivasan will focus on studying virus transmission by whiteflies and management. "We're trying to look at how these viruses interact with their host, how they interact with their vectors, and how they're transmitted," said Srinivasan, who's based on the UGA Griffin campus. "Once we understand that, it will help us get closer to management."

The severity, distribution and timing of whiteflies vary from year to year, but remain a persistent problem for vegetable growers. They are especially problematic in the Tift and Colquitt County region where vegetables are produced year-round.

Whiteflies built up significant populations as early as May 2017. A warm winter that season did not help diminish the whitefly population. The pest normally becomes a problem in August or September, but the earlier they occur, the worse they become, according to Sparks. "We cannot successfully manage this pest as simply a pest of fall vegetables. We have to look at the entire cycle and realize that what happens in one area impacts the others," Sparks said. "Because this pest attacks so many different crops across the agro-ecosystem and cycles from crop to crop throughout the year, we have to understand how it survives and builds in our environment to determine the best strategies for control."

Where and how whiteflies overwinter leads to populations in spring vegetables. This can have an effect on summer crops, which then impacts fall vegetables. Following the 2017 epidemic, UGA formed a whitefly team on the Tifton

campus. Those researchers are included in this grant project, along with researchers in Griffin, Athens, Fort Valley and Charleston.

"We might be able to fix the problem today, but how do we make sure it's fixed to where it lasts through next year and the year after — and something even more permanent?" asked Allen Moore, UGA associate dean for research and principal investigator for the grant. "With sufficient resources that the federal government is providing, we ought to be able to do all of that. Rather than take 10 years to come up with something, we're doing it a lot faster because we're doing it all at once."

The grant designates \$560,000 to Fort Valley State University with the remaining money divided among the researchers at CAES and USDA-ARS in Charleston. Listed are the participating scientists and the areas of whitefly research in which they are involved:

- Plant resistant traits: Babu Srinivasan (UGA), Bhabesh Dutta (UGA), Andre da Silva (UGA), Cecilia McGregor (UGA) and Somashekhar Punhuri (Fort Valley State).
- Ecology, biocontrol, cultural practice: Phillip Roberts (UGA), Alton Sparks (UGA), Andre de Silva (UGA), Paul Severns (UGA), Jason Schmidt (UGA), Mike Toews (UGA), George Mbata (Fort Valley State) and Alvin Simmons (ARS).
- Viruses/transmission dynamics: Babu Srinivasan (UGA), Sadeep Bag (UGA), Paul Severns (UGA), Somashekhar Punhuri (Fort Valley State) and Alvin Simmons (ARS).
- Molecular tools/biotech: Trish Moore (UGA), Bhabesh Dutta (UGA), Cecilia McGregor (UGA), Somashekhar Punhuri (Fort Valley State), George Mbata (Fort Valley State) and Alvin Simmons (ARS).
- Insecticide resistance/biorational control products: David Riley (UGA), Jason Schmidt (UGA), Alton Sparks (UGA), Phillip Roberts (UGA), George Mbata (Fort Valley State) and Alvin Simmons (ARS). ■

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[[Return to Index](#)]



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

EXTENSION

Integrated Pest Management Program

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Potential grant options for IPM field work.

Southern SARE On-Farm Research Grants

Call for proposals now open, deadline is Friday, December 6, 2019

Southern SARE has long supported farmers in their efforts to conduct new and innovative sustainable agriculture production practices. On-Farm Research Grants provide opportunities for those working directly with farmers and ranchers on sustainable agriculture efforts. On-Farm Research Grants are one of SSARE's "small" grants programs, offering \$15,000 for up to a 2-year project for Extension agents, university researchers, NGOs, and government personnel (like NRCS or USDA-ARS) who currently work with farmers and conduct on-farm research with at least one farmer/rancher cooperator. Emphasizing relationship-building between researcher and farmer, this grant has no preproposal requirements, nor are applicants asked to demonstrate specific outcomes in an intensive way. Proposals are easy to write and straightforward to manage, with simple reporting requirements. For more information, please visit their [website](#). ■

Specialty Crop Research Initiative

Pre-proposals due October 15, 2019

The Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) program, administered by USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, addresses the critical needs of the specialty crop industry. The program awards a total of \$80 million in grants to support research and extension that address key challenges of national, regional, and multi-state importance in sustaining all components of food and agriculture, including conventional and organic food production systems. Projects must address at least one of five identified focus areas. Pre-applications may only be submitted by Federal agencies, national laboratories, colleges and universities, research institutions and organizations, private organizations or corporations, State Agricultural Experiment Stations, Cooperative Extension Services, individuals, or groups consisting of two or more of these entities. Pre-applications are due October 15, 2019. For more information, please visit their [website](#). ■

National Clean Plant Network

Pre-proposals due October 18, 2019

The National Clean Plant Network (NCPN) administered by United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service provides high quality asexually propagated plant material tested for targeted plant pathogens and pests to protect the environment and ensure the global competitiveness of specialty crop producers. In FY 2020, APHIS has a minimum of \$5 million to support NCPN clean plant projects nationally. Funding will be provided to Land-Grant Universities, non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture, State Agricultural Experiment Stations, State Governments, and Federal Agencies to support Network priorities as listed online. Proposals must be received by October 18, 2019. For more information, please visit their [website](#). ■

The Critical and Emerging Grants Program

Ongoing

This ongoing grant program provides an opportunity to address and possibly prevent minor problems before they become major concerns. The program supports important developmental work like gathering preliminary data, estimating the scope and risk associated with a pest problem, and developing a network of key people who will effectively contribute to addressing the issue. For more information, please visit their [website](#). ■

IPM Data Grant

Ongoing

The National IPM Database contains over 1000 documents. Of these, 275 of the Crop Profiles in the South are 5 years old or older, and 37 of the 41 Southern PMSPs are over 5 years old. Federal partners have explained that they can only use documents and information that is recent (no older than 5 yrs). There is a critical need for updating Crop Profiles and PMSPs, especially in the South. This fund will be an open fund (available until it is depleted) for faculty interested in updating Crop Profiles or PMSPs. For more information, please visit their [website](#). ■

The IPM Enhancement Grants Program (IPMEP)

Next Offering Fall 2019

This grant is a foundational mechanism used by SIPMC to address important issues affecting the region that has produced many significant outputs and favorable outcomes addressing Global Food Security challenges including invasive species, endangered species, pest resistance, and impacts resulting from regulatory actions. The next Request for Applications will open in Fall 2019. For more information, please visit their [website](#). ■

We value your feedback. Please complete our [survey](#).

To be added to the mailing list, please call us at 706-542-1320 or email us at ipm@uga.edu.

The UGA Integrated Pest Management Newsletter is a monthly journal for researchers, Extension agents, Extension specialists and others interested in pest management. It provides the most updated information on legislation, regulations, and other issues concerning pest management in Georgia.

Do not regard the information in this newsletter as pest management recommendations. Consult the Georgia Pest Management Handbook, Extension publications or appropriate specialists for additional information.

