

Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Ask Laura Newsletter Column
Authorship for January 2015 Newsletter: Laura Tourte, Farm Management Advisor

Q: Where can I get information about managing household pests?

A: There is a wonderful resource, UC IPM Online, that can provide you with information on managing any number of household pests. UC IPM Online, part of the UC Agriculture and Natural Resources Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program, can be found at <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/index.html>.

The website is organized around four main groupings:

1. Home, garden, turf, and landscape pests. Examples are Ants, Bed bugs, and Mice.
2. Agricultural pests. Information is presented by crop name, for example Apple or Carrot.
3. Natural environment pests. Examples are California oakworm and Mosquito.
4. Exotic and invasive pests. Examples are Bagrada bug and Brown marmorated stink bug.

Each household pest has an associated "Pest Note" that can be accessed online, or downloaded as a pdf. Pest Notes, which are generally four to six pages in length (some are a bit longer), have photographs or drawings to help you identify the pest. The Pest Notes are further divided into sections, for example sections about damage, impact, biology, and management options. Management options may be mechanical, biological, and chemical or non-chemical. Some Pest Notes also include prevention tips.

Pest Notes are very useful to understanding each pest, its life cycle, and how you might be able to exclude it from, or manage it within your home. Another website link, <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/menu.homegarden.html>, will take you directly to pests of homes, structures, people, and pets. You will also see a section on pesticides and alternatives to pesticides.

If you have additional questions or would like more information, please contact me by phone, (831) 763-8005, or email, ljtourte@ucdavis.edu.