
THE PESTICIDE REVIEW

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Employee Training Record Inspections

Common non-compliances...

California Code of Regulations, Section 6724 lists the subjects that must be covered during an employee's pesticide training. During the last revision of this code section in the late 1990's, two requirements were added: the topic of heat stress and the requirement to document the training materials and information used to train employees.

It's been at least seven years since the code change, but we still find companies failing to address these training requirements.

Training Forms:

If it has been some time since you've updated your training forms, you can easily download a copy from our website at: <http://www.sccagriculture.org>

(On the left side of our homepage, we have a list of subjects. Click on: "Pesticide Safety, Forms & Education". On the next screen, click on "Pesticide Training Forms, Use Reports, Structural NOI, Permit Applications, Restricted Materials List".) At the bottom of the page, we

have a number of attachments you can download, including a pesticide training form.

Written Training Programs:

The written training program must describe the materials and information used during employee training. If you don't have your training program in writing, you can visit our website and download a blank written training program. This form lists the topics required to be covered in training and has several lines underneath each subject for you to describe the materials used to cover each training subject.

Some companies will simply write, "PSIS..., Label, MSDS" for each subject line to comply with this written training requirement. On the opposite end of the spectrum, some companies take the time to write in great detail the materials used and outline what was covered in training.

Having detailed training records can help a company in a number of situations. In the instance where an applicator's error has led to a drift complaint, our office must decide who is at fault--the company, the employee, or both. There are many factors we consider, one of which is the quality of the employee's training. We ask the employee for details about their training in relation to the specifics to the case. In addition to the employee interview, we also review company records to help us determine if the employee was given the proper tools and knowledge to avoid the incident. If the company can supply a detailed training program with an outline of the specific details covered in training, we may be better able to assess the quality of the employer's training program. A company that fully describes their training system may be able to demonstrate that their employee was knowledgeable of the use requirements and acted in a manner in direct conflict with their training.

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New Publications from the University of California

New publications to help you brush up your skills, train your employees, or to assist those studying for their license exams.

The University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) publications office has a number of new publications available, including:

Residential, Industrial, and Institutional Pest Control, 2nd Edition

This detailed guide is for anyone solving institutional or household pest problems—from pest control operators to building managers or homeowners. Inside you'll find a wealth of information on managing structural, food, and fabric pests, and on rodents, birds, and weeds.

This easy to use manual contains 18 tables and 41 sidebars that expand on the concepts presented, many providing handy checklists for monitoring and control. And you'll find a list of these tables and sidebars in the table of contents so the information you need is at your fingertips. Illustrated with 83 line drawings and 100 photos—including helpful detailed line drawings and scale references of the pests discussed.

New information is included for those carrying out school IPM programs, - including how to select appropriate pesticides for school buildings focusing on herbicides, and safe and effective baits for controlling ants and cockroaches. This new edition includes review questions and answers to help you if you are studying for the California Department of Pesticide Regulation or Structural Pest Control Board exams. 2006. 242 pp.

Residential, Industrial, and Institutional Pest Control, 2nd Edition, ANR publication 3334, is available for \$30.00 by calling 1-800-994-8849 or by logging onto <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu>.



Wildlife Pests around Gardens and Homes, 2nd Edition

Operating under the premise that it is the activity, not the species, that defines the pest, this handy guide will help you determine if a control

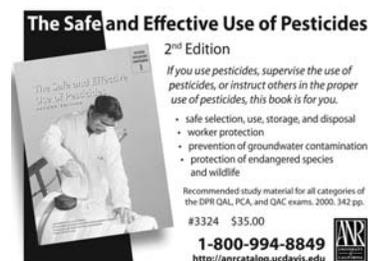


method is necessary – and then offers management and control options. The information presented keeps within the principles of integrated pest management (IPM) and offers a wide range of both preventive and population reduction methods for common bird, mammal and reptile pests. From cliff swallows to rattlesnakes, bats to voles, deer to woodpeckers, this volume will help you identify, appraise, and monitor your wildlife pest situation. This is also recommended study material for the Department of Pesticide Safety (DPR) QAL and QAC exams in the Landscape Maintenance category. 2006. 122 pp.

Wildlife Pests around Gardens and Homes, 2nd Edition, ANR publication 21385, is available for \$25.00 by calling 1-800-994-8849 or by logging onto <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu>.

The Safe and Effective Use of Pesticides, 2nd Edition

If you use pesticides, supervise the use of pesticides, or instruct others in the proper use of pesticides, this book is for you.



Here you'll find detailed information for training your employees to select, use, handle, store, and dispose of pesticides safely and properly. It emphasizes worker protection, prevention of groundwater contamination, protection of endangered species and wildlife, and reduction of environmental problems. The principles described in this volume apply to all areas of pest control, including agricultural, structural, landscape, greenhouse, and public health applications.

This is recommended study material for all categories of the California Department of Pesticide Regulation's Qualified Pesticide Applicator License (QAL) and Qualified Pesticide Applicator Certificate (QAC) exams. 2000. 342 pp.

The Safe and Effective Use of Pesticides, 2nd Edition, ANR publication 3324, is available for \$35.00 by calling 1-800-994-8849 or by logging onto: <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu>.

Japanese Dodder

This parasitic plant has been spotted in several California counties



This exotic parasitic plant looks like a cast member from a B-movie horror flick. It has thick spaghetti-like stems that can strangle large trees and turn the canopy into a yellow tangled mess. The plant will drape to the ground where it will engulf shrubs and other plants as it moves along. Thankfully, this parasite just likes plant material!

Why is Japanese Dodder (*Cuscuta japonica*) such a problem?

Japanese dodder has a large host range and will aggressively attack most woody or herbaceous plants and trees. Like all dodders, Japanese dodder does not make chlorophyll and relies totally upon a host for its survival. Dodders pierce host plants with root-like structures called haustoria to rob the host plant of nutrients and moisture. Japanese dodder will usually overwhelm its host and kill the plant or tree it infests. This parasite can grow up to 6 inches a day during its peak growing season and can move quickly from plant to plant.

Native Dodders

California is home to several species of dodder. Our native dodders cannot pierce tree bark and they usually don't infest trees unless they get a hold of a very low-lying branch. Our native dodders attack small shrubs and plants such as pickleweed, peppers, tomato, melons, and alfalfa and are not as aggressive as the giant Japanese dodder. When a native dodder attacks an established plant, it will usually not kill it unless there is more than one dodder plant attached to the host.

Native dodders are much smaller in diameter and, using the pasta analogy, it looks more like angel hair pasta than thick spaghetti. It is rare to find it in trees and it is not common in this area. One area we do find native



dodder is in pickleweed along the edges of the Bay. Next time you're near the Bay, look out at the pickleweed and you will more than likely spot some of our native dodder. The yellowish orange vines are often visible against the green foliage of the pickleweed.

How did Japanese Dodder get here and where has it been found in California?

Dodder seeds are used in Asian herbal medicines and they are used to treat a wide variety of ailments from vision to liver and kidney problems.

We're not sure if the Japanese dodder outbreaks across the State are the result of travelers smuggling Japanese dodder seeds from Asia, or if the seeds were legally purchased in this country with the belief they were sterile and were accidentally released into the environment. USDA allows sterile seed to enter the U.S., but has a strict ban against viable seed. The USDA is currently checking the seed trade to verify the seed entering this country is sterile.

Japanese Dodder has been found in a handful of counties across California: Shasta, Yuba, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Alameda and Contra Costa. To date, this invasive weed has not been found in Santa Clara County.

If you should spot anything resembling Japanese Dodder, please call your Agricultural Commissioner's Office immediately!



**** RENEWAL REMINDER ****

If your last name starts with: **A – L**, your license will expire on December 31, 2006! Look for DPR's renewal packet in the mail this month and get those forms in early to avoid any licensing delays!

Question Corner

If you have any questions, comments, or would like to suggest a subject for an article, please drop us a note at:

Santa Clara County Agriculture:
The Pesticide Review
1553 Berger Drive
San Jose, CA 95112
Or e-mail us: sccagriculture@era.co.scl.ca.us

Santa Clara County Division of Agriculture
1553 Berger Drive
San Jose, CA 95112
<http://www.sccagriculture.org>

The Pesticide Review is published by the Santa Clara County Division of Agriculture. This newsletter is published several times a year and is intended to provide information and education to registered pest control companies in Santa Clara County.

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