Layout of the Course, “Biological Control for Greenhouse Growers”

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Biological Control for Greenhouse Growers

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Welcome to Biological Control for Greenhouse Growers!

This course is designed to teach greenhouse growers and others interested in learning about the fundamental concepts of biological control and the challenges and opportunities associated with a biological control pest management program. The content of the course covers introductory materials to more advanced concepts such as utilizing banker plants. It is the third course in the College of Knowledge™ series of courses.

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How to Contact the Instructor with Questions:

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Pre-Assessment Quiz

Before we begin, let's assess your current knowledge of biological control methods and practices. Click on the 'Pre-Assessment Quiz' link below to take a quiz.

Pre-Assessment Quiz

Unit 1: Introduction to Greenhouse Biological Control

Now, please watch both videos below.

Then, please take the "Unit 1 Self Assessment Quiz" to assess your progress on these topics.

Introduction to Course

Unit 1: Introduction to Greenhouse Biological Control

Unit 1 Self Assessment Quiz

Unit 1 Handout 6.2MB

Unit 2: Commercially Available Biological Control Agents for Insect and Mite Pests

Now, watch the video for Unit 2 about all of the commercially available natural enemies in the United States and their target pests.

Then, please take the "Unit 2 Self Assessment Quiz" to assess your progress on these topics.

- Unit 2: Commercially Available Biological Control Agents for Insect and Mite Pests ☐
- Unit 2 Self Assessment Quiz ☐
- Unit 2 Handout 1.4MB ☐

Unit 3: Using Banker Plants in Biological Control Programs

Watch the video for Unit 3 about how to use banker plants in a biological control program for the control of greenhouse whitefly, cotton/melon and green peach aphids, or western flower thrips.

Then, please take the "Unit 3 Self Assessment Quiz" to assess your progress on these topics.

- Unit 3: Using Banker Plants in Biological Control Programs ☐
- Unit 3 Self Assessment Quiz ☐
- Unit 3 Handout 926.6KB ☐

Unit 4: Implementing a biological control program

Watch the video for Unit 4 on how you can successfully implement a biological control program in your greenhouse.

Then, please take the "Unit 4 Self Assessment Quiz" to assess your progress on these topics.

- Unit 4: Implementing a Biological Control Program
- Unit 4 Self Assessment Quiz
- Unit 4 Handouts 809KB

Unit 5: Interactions of Pesticides and Biological Control

Watch the following video on the direct and indirect effects of pesticides on natural enemies.

Then, please take the quiz "Unit 5 Self Assessment Quiz" to assess your progress on these topics.

- Unit 5: Interactions of Pesticides and Biological Control
- Unit 5 Self Assessment Quiz
- Unit 5 Handout 1.9MB

Unit 6:Greenhouse Examples Of Biological Control Systems: Application Strategy And Costs

Watch the following video on examples of six greenhouse operations that implement biological control systems. The greenhouse growers that were interviewed were kind enough to share information on the natural enemies that they use, subsequent release rates, and costs of the programs.

Unit 6: Greenhouse Examples of Biological Control Systems: Application Strategy and Costs

Unit 6 Handouts 2.6MB

Spring Bedding Plant Example Release Program 14.9KB

Additional Reading Materials

For students interested further reading, check out these articles and books.

Additional Reading on Biological Control 200.6KB

Course Wrap-Up

Now that you've successfully finished the course, in order to earn a certificate of completion, you must earn at least 80% on the final exam. Take that exam below.

In addition, please complete the short course wrap-up survey below. This will give you a chance to give us feedback about the course and how you will implement what you learned in your business.

Final Exam

When you are ready, please take the final exam. If you earn an 80% or greater, you will be able to print out a certificate of completion.

Course Wrap-up

Certificate of Merit of Biological Control for Greenhouse Growers

Not available unless: You achieve a required score in **Final Exam**

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National Institute of Food and Agriculture