

Integrated Pest Management for Commercial Green Industry Professionals; A Hands on Approach

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Need/Goal:

Reduce potential plant loss, lower improper and un-needed pesticide use, and increase green industry professional knowledge of timely insect & disease issues and resources through a hands-on season pertinent identification and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) workshop.

Specific Evaluation Criteria:

Knowledge –

- Increase client knowledge of insect identification
- Increase knowledge of client disease identification
- Increase client knowledge of available reference tools
- Increase client knowledge of Plant Clinic use & availability



Aspirations –

- Identify insect problems before treating
- Identify disease problems before treating
- Consult with Clemson Ext. & resources to determine plant problems
- Utilize the Clemson Plant & Pest Diagnostic Clinic



Educational Practices:

Workshop begins with hands-on sample identification, including plant host & problem for 25 current landscape issues. Each sample is then presented and reviewed by the agent giving proper host, pest, and IPM strategy for control in the commercial landscape setting. Additional photos of similar hosts & problems are used via a PowerPoint presentation. Discussion on each sample occurs with input of specific landscape scenarios with class participants. After all samples are presented and reviewed, a post-test is given to assess impact.

- 2 hour interactive class with green industry professionals
- Hands on with selection of current landscape pest/problems
- PowerPoint presentations with additional sample photos during review
- Pre and Post Evaluations



Results:

- 100% of participants were satisfied with the training and would recommend it to others
- 22 green industry professionals increased knowledge of 25 timely plant hosts, problems, & IPM solutions in the landscape
- An average of 64% of participants aspired a change in behavior for each of the four evaluation criteria.
- 46 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) were given for SC Licensed Pesticide Applicators.
- 'An IPM for the Green Industry' toolkit was created using high resolution sample photos, answer key, and worksheets to enable the workshop to be replicated throughout the year by any agent.

