

The Future of Urban Pest Management Education: Virtual Webinars for Distance Education



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Why Create a Pest Management Webinar?

COVID-19 has had a substantial impact on urban pest management. Quarantines resulted in increased stored food and shelter for pests in the forms of such materials as cardboard boxes or paper bags. PestWorld.org has stated that summer high temperatures, excessive rain, and the impact of COVID-19 could create the perfect storm for urban pests. Increased pests can result in serious health problems, costly economic damage to structures, and stress to affected homeowners, thus affecting quality of life. Due to quarantining, Extension educators were also challenged to find a way to reach out to citizens and inform them on the importance of and being diligent about pest management.

Objective

To develop and deliver webinars on urban pests for non-pest professional audiences. Goal: Participants will demonstrate at least a 30% gain of intent to practice integrated pest management practices (IPM) as measured by pre and post-test utilizing Zoom polling.

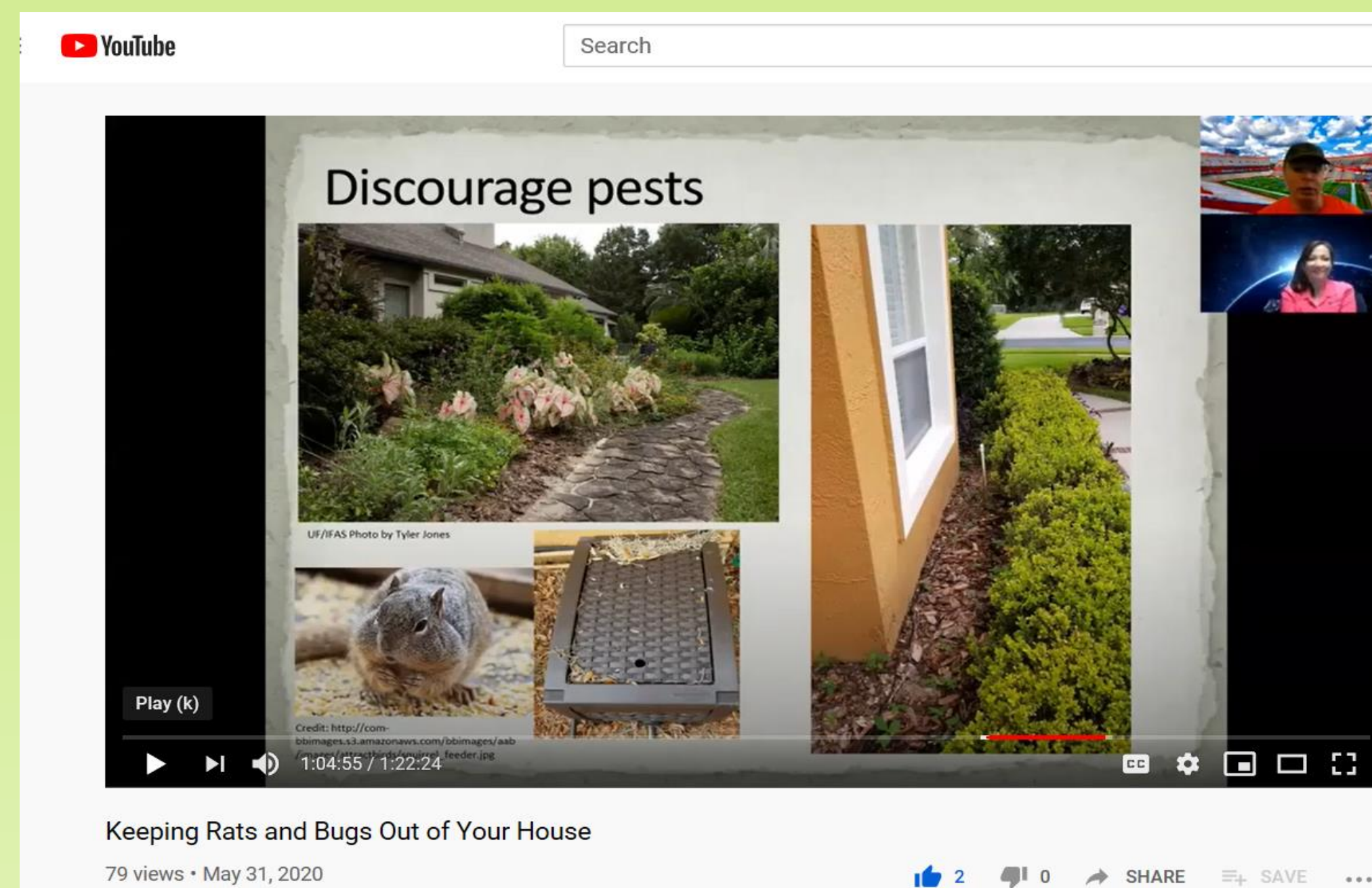


Photo: Zoom Recording on YouTube

Results

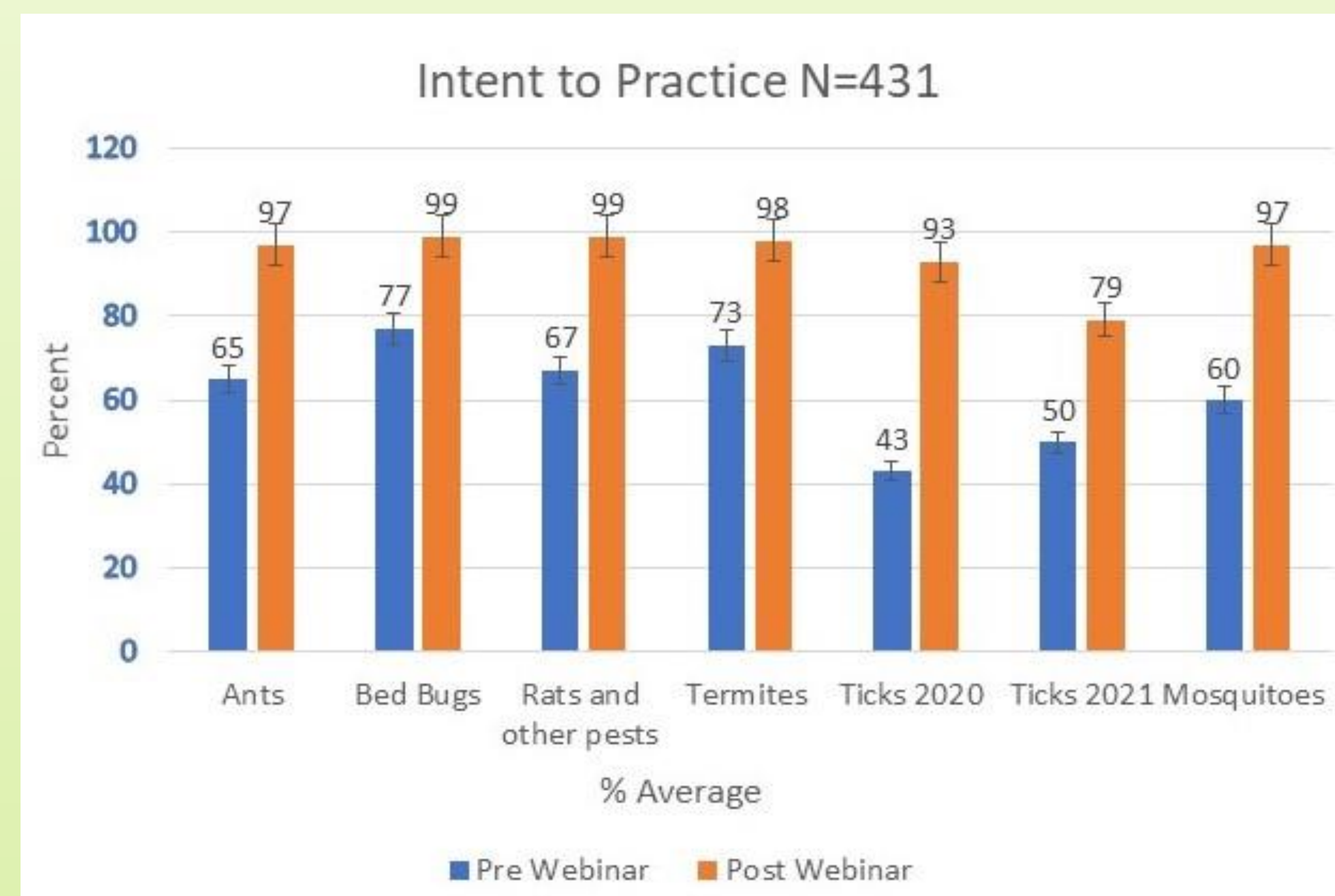


Fig 1. Intent to practice IPM behaviors before and after webinars.

Our goal of at least an overall 30% gain in intent to practice IPM behaviors was met (Fig. 1). Additionally, 100% (n=431) stated that as a result of the Extension webinar(s), they will be more successful in managing pests around their home.

Methods

A total of seven webinars were created using Zoom webinar. Pre and post questions were administered utilizing Zoom polling and attendance was captured using Zoom reports. Each webinar was one hour long. Webinars were held on one Tuesday of the month.

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Testimonials

- "Thnx, dumping water in pots now." – L.W.
- Thanks so much for your presentation on termites. It was really enjoyable, and I learned a lot! Keep up the great work!" – Kevin
- "I'm hooked on your weekly webinars! I am learning so much and even share your YouTube posts with several of my out-of-state friends. After watching last week's webinar on rodents, I spent this morning cutting a climbing allamanda away from my house and roof line." – L.D.

Free Webinar
Urban Pest Management Series
 Presented by Jim Davis, Multi-County Extension Director and Dr. Faith Oi, UF/IFAS Associate Professor and Pest Management University (PMU) Director

Ticks and the Diseases They Carry
Wednesday, February 10, 2021
1:00 pm
 Via Zoom: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/99624130447>

Fun Facts

- o Did you know that ticks are arachnids, just like spiders!
- o The female lone star tick can have as many as 5,000 eggs
- o The brown dog tick can complete its entire life cycle in your home

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