

Kim Schofield

Synopsis of presentation- "Good Arthropods in Texas"In urban areas, pesticide usage is widespread and usually unnecessary. This stems from a misunderstanding of IPM and a major fear of all insects. Many individuals do not realize that only 5% of insects are actually harmful, and the remaining 95% of insects are either beneficial or neutral. It is important to be able to recognize and differentiate between harmful and beneficial insects and other arthropods. Being able to correctly identify arthropods, knowing how to prevent them or how to treat them when present, will ultimately reduce reliance on pesticides for control and preserve beneficial insects.

About Mrs. Kimberly Schofield

Kim Schofield began her career at the Dallas Research and Extension Center on Coit Road as an Extension Program Specialist for Urban Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in February 2004. She moved to Dallas from Texas A& M University in College Station, where she earned a B.A. in biology and an M.S. in entomology with an emphasis on urban and structural entomology. Kim's major focus is to increase awareness within the Metroplex of the Texas Two Step Method for controlling the red imported fire ant as well as increase public awareness of the principles of IPM. IPM plans use multiple techniques, such as cultural, biological, mechanical and chemical tactics, in order to control pest.

Her main research focus is on the red imported fire ant, where both chemicals and natural enemies are used for control. In addition to researching fire ants, she also studies other landscape and ornamental insect pests such as thrips, grub worms and Florida Wax scales control in order to help increase awareness and use of IPM tactics. She also conducts presentations and trainings for Master Gardeners, pest management professionals, elementary students and homeowner associations.

