

Win Dunwell – UK Nursery Crops announces the First Mobile App for Landscape and Nursery Professionals Developed by a Team of Plant and Pest Experts from Seven Major Universities

May 21, 2012 - Princeton, KY - Green Industry professionals often find themselves in the field needing immediate access to pest and plant disease information and plant care recommendations. Or, they need to be alerted when destructive pests emerge in their area. Thanks to a collaborative effort of

horticulturists, entomologists and plant pathologists at seven land-grant universities, now there's an app for that.

The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, working with Clemson, North Carolina State University, University of Georgia, University of Kentucky, University of Maryland and Virginia Polytechnic Institute, have developed the first Integrated Pest Management mobile app for nursery growers, landscapers, arborists, Extension agents and students that includes the major horticultural practices and disease and insect recommendations.

IPMPro will streamline pest management decision-making, employee training, and will make complying with state pesticide recordkeeping regulations easy. The mobile app is available for iPhone, iPad, and Android.

Built by horticulture and pest management experts in cooperation with growers and landscapers, IPM*Pro* was built for USDA Plant Hardiness Zones four through eight, which include 22 states from west of the Mississippi River, east and north to Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and south to the Gulf Coast.

"Nursery and landscape professionals conduct business on the go; they truly have a mobile office – often their truck," explained Amy Fulcher, lead developer and University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture plant scientist. "IPM*Pro* dramatically simplifies day-to-day plant care and pest control decision-making in the field. It provides a library of information in the convenience of an app, and features real-time alerts to help professionals stay on top of emerging pests and timely plant care."

IPMPro is like having an expert in the field with the user to:

- Receive text-like alerts for time-sensitive pest issues and plant care alert date adjusted to location
- Consult images, pest lifecycle, and management options for major pests of woody plants
- Reference how-to information and images of cultural practices
- Obtain pesticide recommendations for major diseases and insects
- Utilize built-in pesticide recordkeeping for documentation while outdoors
- Track pests and cultural practices in calendar view or a chronological list
- Assist in educating new employees and experienced professionals



John Watson, with Common Grounds Landscape Management in Knoxville, Tennessee, got an early introduction to the IPM app. "My first thought was, 'Where have you been?' Most of the time we get so busy putting out fires we forget that the best thing we could do is prevent fires," he explained. "This is just the kind of thing the industry needs. Now we have the best opportunity to head off pest issues that can wreak havoc for nursery and landscape professionals and for homeowners."

This is the first application of its kind developed in the United States, and it was made possible through funding by the UT Institute of Agriculture through its Extension and AgResearch units.

For less than a subscription for non-interactive tools like books and magazines that professionals currently use, IPM*Pro* is \$24.99 and is available through Apple and Android marketplaces. For more information on the application, visit <u>http://www.IPMProApp.com.</u> Coming soon for homeowners - IPM*Lite.*

For more information visit http://www.IPMProApp.com

Members of the development team may be contacted and include:

Tennessee (Lead Institution)

Amy Fulcher (Lead Developer) University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, Department of Plant Sciences <u>amyfulcher@tennessee.edu</u> Phone (865)974-7152

Frank Hale The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, Soil, Plant and Pest Center Phone (615) 835-4571 fahale@utk.edu

William Klingeman The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, Plant Sciences Department Phone (865) 974-7324 wklingem@utk.edu

Alan Windham The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, Soil, Plant and Pest Center Phone (615) 835-4572 awindha1@utk.edu

Georgia Kris Braman The University of Georgia, Department of Entomology Phone: (770) 228-7236 <u>kbraman@uga.edu</u> Matthew Chappell The University of Georgia, Horticulture Department Phone (706) 542-9044 hortprod@uga.edu

Jean Williams-Woodward (Lead Plant Pathology Developer) The University of Georgia, Department of Plant Pathology Phone: (706) 542-9140 <u>jwoodwar@uga.edu</u>

Kentucky Winston Dunwell UK Research & Education Center Phone: (270) 365-7541 x 209 wdunwell@uky.edu

Maryland Stanton Gill University of Maryland, Central Maryland UME Phone (301) 596-9413 sgill@umd.edu

Karen Rane University of Maryland Plant Diagnostic Phone (301) 405-1611 <u>rane@umd.edu</u>

North Carolina

Craig Adkins North Carolina State University, Agricultural Resource Center Phone (828) 757-1290 craig_adkins@ncsu.edu

Steven Frank North Carolina State University, Department of Entomology Phone (919) 515-8880 <u>steven_frank@ncsu.edu</u>

Anthony LeBude Horticultural Science Mountain Horticultural Crops Research and Extension Center (MHCREC) Phone (828) 684.3562

anthony_lebude@ncsu.edu

Joe Neal North Carolina State University, Department of Horticultural Science Phone: 919.515.9379 joe neal@ncsu.edu

South Carolina

Juang-Horng (J.C.) Chong (Lead Entomology Developer) Pee Dee Research and Education Center Phone (843) 662-3526 ext. 224 juanghc@clemson.edu

Sarah White (Lead Horticulture Developer) Clemson University, Department of Horticulture Phone (864) 656-7433 <u>swhite4@clemson.edu</u>

Virginia Jeff Derr Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Hampton Roads Ag. Res. and Ext. Center Phone: (757) 363-3912 jderr@vt.edu