

2010 DALLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER'S SCHOOL

Program Title: “*EARTH-KIND*® IPM Entomology (9am-12:00noon and 1pm-4pm)

Presented By: Michael Merchant, Ph.D., BCE
Professor and Extension Urban Entomologist
Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center, Dallas

About Dr. Merchant:

Mike Merchant's path to expertise in entomology began at Western Washington University, where he earned his B.S. degree in environmental science. From there he headed east to Purdue University for an M.S. degree in entomology, and finally south to Texas A&M University for his Ph.D. in entomology.

Dr. Merchant has served as the Extension Urban Entomology Specialist at the Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Dallas since 1989. His responsibilities include providing information on insects and insect control to county extension agents, and to the public and various professional groups including pest-control providers, landscape and turf managers, cities and school districts.

Mike's focus and training is on development of integrated pest management (IPM) programs for schools, cities and institutions. He also has an interest in LEED (*Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design*) standards for “green” buildings, and in trying to incorporate IPM standards and pest prevention into the design of new buildings. His research has focused on fire ants, termites, spider and scorpion control, as well as exotic pests. He is a Board Certified Entomologist and was instrumental in starting the national ACE (*Associate Certified Entomologist*) certification program for pest-control professionals.

Dr. Merchant works closely with county Extension offices and with municipalities to identify and promote safer pest-control methods for use by the public. He helped originate the Texas Two-Step Method of fire-ant control for home lawns. He maintains the Insects in the City website at <http://citybugs.tamu.edu> and writes a blog for pest-control professionals at <http://insectsinthecity.blogspot.com>.

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