



PCO Press

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[PCO Home](#) | [IPM](#) | [C & T](#) | [Resources](#) | [Pesticide Safety](#) | [Forms, Fees, & Maps](#) | [Contact](#)

Invasive Plants

With the monsoon rains coming through the area, plant growth has been on the rise. The rains provide great moisture for agriculture, but it also provides moisture for the native plants and the unwanted plants referred to as non-native plants or weeds. The non-native plants grow just about anywhere you can think of, from the agriculture fields, along the highways, along the river, and around your home or work area.

Most weeds can attract pests which may bring pests closer to homes. If weeds are growing near agricultural fields might also attract unwanted pests to the crops in the field. The seeds for non-native plants are able to spread in different locations by different factors such as, birds, pollinators, animals, weather, and human influence. Non-native plants can adapt to a variety of conditions with the ability to spread and reproduce, quickly becoming **invasive plants**.



Over the years, invasive plants have taken over areas and have outgrown native plants. The University of Arizona and Northern Arizona University have studies identifying native plants, non-native plants and invasive plants. These studies also include how and which plants may attract pest. More information from the University of Arizona regarding invasive plants can be found using the following links:

- [Non-Native, Invasive Plants Of Arizona](#)
- [Interactions Between Insects & Weeds in Desert Crops](#)

Pesticide Drift

According to the National Pesticide Information Center, pesticide drift is the airborne movement of pesticides from an area of application to any unintended site. Drift can happen during a pesticide application, when droplets or dust travel away from the target site. It can also happen after the application, when some chemicals become vapors that can move off-site. Pesticide drift can cause accidental exposure to people, animals, plants and property.



The following are examples of two types of drift: **Particle Drift** is the movement of spray droplets during an application. **Vapor Drift** is the movement of a volatilized pesticide, which is more likely to happen after an application. An important factor in vapor drift is the pesticide's vapor pressure.

Reading the label is the first and most important way to minimize risk and exposure. Understanding the approved use instructions will help reduce the risk of drift. There are four main drift factors the EPA focuses on when reviewing pesticide product registrations:

- Minimum and maximum wind speed;
- Spray droplet size;
- Spray release height; and
- Buffer zones, if applicable.

For more information on ways to minimize or prevent pesticide drift, click [here](#).

The University of Arizona: Arizona's Land Grant University

The Morrill Acts of 1862 and 1890 provided states with federally controlled land and funding to establish universities and colleges focused on teaching the sciences, technology, and agriculture. The Hatch Act of 1887 established agricultural experimental stations controlled by each state's land grant institution, and the Smith Lever Act of 1914 created the Cooperative Extension system to extend the applications of agricultural research and information into communities.

What this means for the Gila River Indian Community, which has its roots deeply planted in agriculture, is that numerous resources are available to help with practical problems, from coursework, to consultations, to collaborations.

In the past, the GRIC Pesticide Control Office has collaborated with UA Cooperative Extension to bring you outreach and education specific to pest management. You may have attended a training course on bed bugs, learned the importance of calibrating spray equipment, or had the opportunity to meet university experts at one of the Department of Environmental Quality's Earth Day celebrations.

Pest management however, is only the tip of the iceberg. A myriad of resources exist in areas such as: Field Crop Integrated Pest Management; Noxious Weeds; Crops/Soils; Trees, Lawns and Landscaping; Rangeland Management and Home Gardening to name just a few.



Regardless of your interest, we encourage you to visit UA Cooperative Extension websites below, or to reach out to your local County Agent, Blase Evancho, at bee1@email.arizona.edu, (520) 836-5221, ext. 215.

The [Arizona Pest Management Center](#) website has resources for Agricultural and Community pest management, including insects, weeds and plant disease management, diagnostics, and more.

The [Extension Publications](#) website can be searched by author, topic or publication number. Not sure? Click on one of the checkboxes for your topic of interest.

More information about Cooperative Extension is available through the following links:

- [About Cooperative Extension](#)
- [Explore Cooperative Extension](#)

GRIC
Pesticide Control
Office

Community
Applicator
Training

To register for the
eLearning version of
the CA Training,
click [here](#).

Arizona Department
of
Agriculture

WPS
Pesticide Safety
Trainer Course

Hybrid Format:
Course Online

Test in Person

Register [here](#)

SUGGESTIONS?

Your feedback and
ideas are welcome.
If you have a
suggestion for a
PCO Press topic,
please submit to:

gric.pesticide.office@gric.nsn.us