

Bug-Wise

No. 6
July 23 2007



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Who can I call about bug problems?: When you have insect problems, or want to avoid having insect problems through proactive training and management, you need to talk to an entomologist. But entomology is a big discipline, and no one person can keep current on all of the insect pests that occur in the state, as well as the management options and insecticides used to control those pests. This is why extension entomologists have various specialty areas, and it's also why you want to talk to an entomologist who works on the specialty area you are interested in.

Currently there are two state extension entomology specialists located on campus at Mississippi State. Dr. Angus Catchot works with insect pests of major row crops, especially cotton and soybeans. Dr. Blake Layton is the primary contact for 'homeowner' insect problems, including insect pests of ornamental plants and home lawns, as well as household insects and insect pests of home vegetable gardens. Blake also covers insect pests of commercial vegetables and is the entomology contact for Master Gardener training.

There are also four area entomology specialists at other locations in the state. Each area specialist has a general commodity area that they focus on within their geographic area, either row crops or horticultural crops. In addition, each area specialist has a statewide assignment in at least one commodity area.

Dr. Gordon Andrews works primarily on row crops in the delta region and has statewide responsibilities for rice entomology. Dr. David Held covers horticultural crops in the coastal area and has statewide responsibilities for commercial turf and commercial horticulture. Dr. Don Cook handles row crop entomology issues in northeast Mississippi and leads the state 4-H entomology program, as well as covering insect pests of sweet potatoes. Dr. Chris Daves works with insect pests of row crops in southwest Mississippi and has statewide responsibilities for corn and forage crops.

The following table gives the contact information, location, and areas of responsibility for the extension entomology specialists in Mississippi. Don't hesitate to contact one of us anytime you have questions about insect identification, management, or control or want to arrange a troubleshooting visit or educational program on insects and/or insect management.

Blake Layton, Extension Entomology Specialist

Extension Entomology Contacts in Mississippi

Specialist	Primary Contact for insect pests of:	Phone Number	E-mail	Location
Dr. Blake Layton	Home Ornamentals {S} Home Lawns {S} Home Vegetables {S} Household Insects {S} Insect Identification {S} Master Gardner Entomology {S} Commercial Pest Control {S} Commercial Veggies. {S} (except sweetpotatoes)	662-325-2085	blayton@entomology.msstate.edu	MSU, Department of Entomology
Dr. Angus Catchot	Cotton {S} Soybeans {S} Wheat {S}	662-325-2085	acatchot@entomology.msstate.edu	MSU, Department of Entomology
Dr. David Held	Commercial Turf {S} Commercial Ornamentals {S} Home Orn./Lawns/Vegs/Household Pests In Coastal MS {A}	228-546-1019	dheld@ext.msstate.edu	Biloxi, Coastal R&E Center
Dr. Gordon Andrews	Rice {S} Row Crops in NW MS {A}	662-686-3245	gordona@ext.msstate.edu	Stoneville, Delta R&E Center
Dr. Chris Daves	Corn {S} Pastures and Forage {S} Row Crops in SW MS {A}	601-857-2284	cdaves@ext.msstate.edu	Raymond, Central MS R&E Center
Dr. Don Cook	Sweetpotatoes {S} 4-H Entomology {S} Row Crops in NE MS {A}	662-566-2201	dcook@ext.msstate.edu	Verona, North MS R&E Center
Mr. Elmo Collum	Pesticide App. Training, Private {S} Pesticide App. Training, Commercial {S}	601-857-2284	elmoc@ext.msstate.edu	Raymond, Central MS R&E Center

{S} = Statewide assignment {A} = Area assignment

The above assignments show which scientist has primary responsibility for each area.

You can contact area entomology specialists for any insect problem located in their geographic area.