



California Urban IPM Apprenticeship

Teaching skills to improve pest and weed management across California

Rodent exclusion, sanitation, trapping and baiting

Wednesday November 20th, 2024

Noon to 1:30 pm PDT

Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84581612217?pwd=4XyPKtXwrW5aGntjV3hExBKs2wZw7g.1>

Webinar abstract:

This presentation will discuss an overview of the five essential elements of Rodent IPM: exclusion, sanitation, trapping, rodenticide baiting and monitoring. Professionally conducted exclusion provides the most sustainable and cost-effective approach for rodent control although it is not a widely embraced product offering by the pest management industry overall. Sanitation must involve the removal of the foods that attract rodents to building areas and allow them to get a reproductive “first base” hold. For rats, exterior food refuse is usually the IPM target; for mice, it is attention to detail cleaning in the interior hard-to-reach areas. Professional pest elimination tools include various live and kill traps, various rodenticidal baits for both rodent pest species indoors and out, and an increasing trend towards the use of burrow gas for Norway rats. For rodent baits to have any practical impact, they require the removal of the competing food source in conjunction with scientific placements into the infestation’s site-specific rodent-behavioral locations vs. simple homeowner-level “lay-downs” of equipment along walls at neatly appearing spacings. Rodenticide bait choices here in 2024 must be made with an acute awareness to the scientifically proven environmental transfer of these poison baits to a long list of non-target wildlife. Finally, novel rodent sensors and rodent “cam” technology provides valuable benefits for increasing route efficiencies, reducing callbacks and the IPM-essential step of proving to any client via *formal monitoring*, the ongoing *progress* towards sustainable results versus a frustrating and ongoing rodent harvesting program.

Learning objectives addressed:

- (1) Be able to explain basic rodent biology, lifecycles, monitoring and management strategies. (10 minutes)
- (2) Develop competency in completing onsite evaluations to assess rodent pressure in outdoor or indoor environments using methods of non-toxic bait boxes and visual inspection of conditions conducive to rodents. (10 minutes)
- (3) Demonstrate the ability to develop and implement a rodent management plan that includes exclusion, sanitation, trapping and baiting. (40 minutes)

Presenter name/bio:

Bobby Corrigan, RMC Pest Management Consulting

Corrigan authored the book *Rodent Control: A Practical Guide for Pest Management Professionals*, which details rodent biology and behavior and multiple approaches for their control. Bobby owns RMC Pest Management Consulting where he has been an urban rodentologist, scientist and program designer for 25 years. Bobby is based In New York City but offers consulting services to other large cities working to control their rodents. He holds a doctorate degree in rodent control from Purdue University and is seen as the premier expert on rodentology as evidenced by his appearances in PMP magazine, the New York Times and CBS news.



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Webinar Schedule

Agenda Topic	Description
Introduction and Roll Call (5 minutes)	<i>Leader:</i> Josie Dillon
Rodent IPM Overview (10 minutes) <i>Learning Objective #1</i>	<i>Presenter:</i> Dr. Corrigan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rodent history in urban areas • Rodent biology and life cycles • Rodent behavior
Monitoring (10 minutes) <i>Learning Objective #2</i>	<i>Presenter:</i> Dr. Corrigan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying conditions conducive to rodents • Non-toxic baiting
Exclusion (10 minutes) <i>Learning Objective #3</i>	<i>Presenter:</i> Dr. Corrigan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rat burrow inspection and prevention • Identifying and eliminating structural access points
Sanitation (10 minutes) <i>Learning Objective #3</i>	<i>Presenter:</i> Dr. Corrigan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elimination of food, water and shelter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Garbage placement and containment ○ Cleaning protocols
Trapping and baiting (20 minutes) <i>Learning Objective #3</i>	<i>Presenter:</i> Dr. Corrigan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper trap and bait placement • How to monitor traps and baits • Rodenticide selection
Question and Answer Session (10 minutes)	<i>Facilitator:</i> Josie Dillon
Post Quiz (5 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 question quiz • Need 70% to pass