

Integrated Pest Management

In early 2008 a new Facilities contract was initiated. Part of this contract is to perform pest control at JSC, Ellington Field and Sonny Carter Training Facility. The custodial subcontractor, Budget Pest Control, handles indoor/outdoor (up to 4 feet around the perimeter of a building) and termite pest control. The groundskeeping contractor, ProDyn EPES, LLC., handles the remaining 1,033 acres of JSC grounds including 475 acres of mosquito, fire ant and pest/animal control, 1,012 trees, landscaping, water features, 50 acres of irrigation systems, and jogging trails.

Both companies utilize Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques instead of the traditional “spray everywhere with pesticide” applications used in the past. IPM uses sustainable, effective, economical and environmentally sound methods, including targeted methods, habitat modifications, physical controls, inspections, exclusion of pests and, when necessary, the judicious use of the least hazardous pesticides to kill targeted pests.



As of March 2009, the custodial subcontractor has accomplished the following:

- Successfully identified and eliminated 3 potentially devastating colonies of Rasberry Crazy Ants that were discovered at JSC.
- Reduced the amount of pesticides used inside JSC facilities by 66%.
- Reduced the amount of airborne exposure to harmful pesticides to

employees and technicians inside of buildings by 99.9% with the use of targeted methods that include gel based baits and bait stations.

- Reduced the amount of handling, exposure, and mixing to the technician applying the pesticides by 99.9%.
- Reduced the amount of Emergency Pest Control applications due to resident sightings of insects and rodents by 90%.
- Reduced the number of customer service calls by 70%.
- Ensured more effective pest control management by performing inspections twice a year to determine if any insect/termite activity or entry into buildings occurs.

As of March 2009, the groundskeeping contractor has accomplished the following:

- Reduced the amount of conventional pesticides by substituting biobased pesticides. Click on the link for the complete list of [Biobased Pesticides](#).
- Reduced the amount of synthetic fertilizer, pesticides and irrigation due to the purchase and propagation of only native plants.
- Reduced the amount of synthetic fertilizer needed by watering grass in the morning to increase water uptake rather than evaporation.
- Reduced the amount of pesticides and synthetic fertilizer by generating mulch and compost from organic matter gathered onsite.



- Reduced the amount of pesticides and herbicides with the use of a biobased preemergent called corn meal gluten.
- Reduced the amount of pesticides and herbicides with the practice of action thresholds or the treatment of weeds only when they are seen.
- Perform inspections as necessary based on observations of pests in the area by grounds contractors and employee sightings.

Please report indoor pest sightings to your building facility manager, providing the type of pest discovered, when and where it was seen, and the person's name who saw the pest. For outdoor dead animals or snake sightings please contact Aurora Parra at: aurora.t.parra@nasa.gov.

It is not our expectation or goal that JSC will become a “Pest Free Zone,” but with IPM measures we can decrease the numbers of pests seen in our facilities. For more information about the Rasberry Crazy Ants and a pest identifier, go to: www.281deadbug.com. 

