

**ECOLOGICAL PEST MANAGEMENT IN GRAPES: A PEER-REVIEWED,  
INTERNET-BASED COURSE FOR CALIFORNIA PEST CONTROL ADVISORS**

Christopher Geiger<sup>1</sup> and David Chaney<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>California Department of Pesticide Regulation, P.O. Box 4015, Sacramento, CA 95812-4015, USA

<sup>2</sup>University of California Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program, One Shields Avenue, Davis, CA 95616, USA

In the U.S., licensed pest control advisors (PCAs) play an increasingly central role in pest management decision-making, but relatively few public resources are directed toward PCA training. Here we present the University of California's first fully web-based PCA training course, which is now in its first year of field testing. The course is an asynchronous tutorial, designed to accommodate PCAs in remote areas who do not have fast internet connections. All quizzes and exams are taken on the internet and automatically graded, and continuing education credits are accrued electronically. The course makes extensive use of interactive elements, and incorporates constructivist educational theory. It features an embedded training video on leafhopper sampling techniques, and an experimental, inquiry-based unit that simulates a pest management problem. Users are being surveyed to assess the course's practicality, educational value relative to other training options, and technical problems.