**Common Florida Pest Lab**

Standards

* 27.0 Control plant pests- the student will be able to:
	+ 27.01 Compare and contrasts common plant pests and their damages
	+ 27.05 Describe biological, chemical and cultural methods of controlling plant pests

Content Area: Horticulture/ Plant Science, Agritechnology

Description: Designed to engage students through an inquiry based learning process by having them find and collect two to three different insects found around their home. They will identify these insects and determine the damage they cause to local pests and the best way to control them.

Materials:

* 2-3 containers to catch the insects in
* Dichotomous key (<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/CritterFiles/casefile/4Hent/stfairorder.pdf>)

Instructions:

1. Go outside and collect three different types of insects.
2. Using the dichotomous key, try your best to identify the insect that you have.
3. If you feel the need to check you identification, you can do so at this website: <https://www.insectidentification.org/insects-by-type-and-region.asp?thisState=Florida&thisType=True>
4. Using your textbook or other resources (EDIS articles, website provided above, etc.), determine how that insect harms local plants.
5. Create and explain a plan that includes how you can combat this pest through cultural, chemical, and biological methods.

Hints:

* Go through the dichotomous key example before trying to ID your own insects.
* Use a clear container (such as a plastic bottle) to catch your insects in so that you can look at them when trying to ID them.
* The dichotomous key is used for MATURE insects only. Keep this in mind if you find juvenile insects (e.g. caterpillar).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Insect #1:  | Insect #2:  | Insect #3: |
| Identification (include your steps through the dichotomous key)  |  |  |  |
| How does this insect affect plants?  |  |  |  |
| What is the best way to combat this problem?  |  |  |  |