

F8-P

HOMEOWNER SOLUTIONS: AN INTERACTIVE TUTORIAL

*Karen Delahaut¹, Chris Boerboom², Dan Wixted³, and Dolores Sirek²

¹Department of Horticulture, University of Wisconsin, 1575 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706, USA

²Department of Agronomy, University of Wisconsin, 1575 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706, USA

³Department of Entomology, Cornell University, 5140 Comstock Hall, Ithaca, NY, USA

Homeowner Solutions is an interactive CD tutorial is designed to help the general public voluntarily learn and better understand important concepts about using pesticides in and around their home. The intended audience includes homeowners, landlords and tenants, school custodians and Master Gardeners.

The tutorial contains 21 chapters, 54 learning objectives, and over 290 screens, 125 audio clips, 300 graphics, 160 animations, and 130 user interactions. It provides information about each learning objective and then asks users to choose their response to a given pesticide handling scenario. It then indicates whether their response is correct and the reason why or why not. Basically, the tutorial provides users review questions in an interactive format. It's user friendly, easy to navigate within the tutorial, and it does not install any software or files on a user's PC computer.

Included on the CD is our complete series of Home PEST brochures. The Home Pesticide Education Safety Training project is a voluntary educational effort in Wisconsin to provide the general public with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about pesticide use in and around the home. Rather than repeat in the tutorial itself the detailed information contained in the brochures, we occasionally refer users to the appropriate Home PEST brochure for additional information. An integral feature of the tutorial is that a user may open up and read the referenced Home PEST brochure without having to exit the tutorial itself.