

JRG

TERMITE & PEST CONTROL

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The Pest Bulletin

The *Abundant* Pests of Summer

It's summertime...and the pests are plentiful—multiplying like crazy in the warm weather. Here are some of the many summer pests to look for.



Pests around food: *Stored food moths* and *beetles* find their way into many foods we keep for ourselves or our pets. *Cockroaches*, *ants*, *flies*, *rats* and *mice* can be problems anywhere food is stored, cooked or served—and often throughout our homes. Watch your pet food to make sure you aren't feeding bugs or other animals.

Fabric pests: *Clothes moths* and

carpet beetles favor wool, but also eat other fabrics. *Silverfish*, *crickets* and other pests occasionally damage fabrics and papers.

Pests that sting or bite: *Bees*, *wasps*, *hornets*, *yellowjackets*, *scorpions*, and certain *spiders* and *ants* pack stings that can be quite painful. Some pests suck our blood, often without us knowing it. These include *fleas*, *ticks*, *mosquitoes*, *biting gnats* and *flies*, and many others. *Bed bugs*, those nasty blood suckers that hadn't been a serious problem in decades, are

becoming much more common again.

Pests in damp areas: *Millipedes*, *springtails*, and *bark lice* are some of the pests that multiply in damp areas indoors and outdoors.

Wood-destroying pests: *Termites*, *carpenter ants*, *carpenter bees*, *powderpost beetles*, and *decay fungi* all either eat wood for food or tunnel into it to create nests. Either way, they cause serious damage.

Hope you have a great, pest-free summer!

Ouch! Wasps and Yellowjackets



Yellowjackets, wasps, and hornets become serious problems starting in summer and increasing as fall arrives. Their colonies grow to huge numbers, with each nest containing hundreds or thousands of adult wasps. (One unusually large nest discovered in Florida was 12 feet high and 6 feet wide, and contained as many as *one million* adult wasps!)

As the season progresses there are more mouths to feed and at the same time food becomes more sparse. These pests hunt more aggressively and are more likely to come into contact with people, making them more dangerous.

These insects have very painful stings, as we all know. But some people have severe allergic reactions to the stings, and for these people a single

sting can be life-threatening unless treated immediately.

Unlike bees, which lose their stinger, wasps, yellowjackets, and hornets can sting repeatedly. They also tend to be more aggressive than honey bees when their nest is disturbed.

If you are stung by one of these insects, wash the spot with soap, then apply ice to the sting site. Immediately consult a physician if you experience a systemic, broad reaction, or know you are especially sensitive to the stings.

Small nests of these pests sometimes don't need to be treated. But if you have a large nest, or a nest located near a doorway, window, or other place too close to people, or if people or pets in your family are highly allergic to their stings, call us to treat it safely, before anyone is stung.

Pest Prevention Tip of the Month

Fruit that has fallen from trees will attract wasps, ants, rats, and many other pests looking for a meal. To prevent this, pick up the fruit at least twice a week during harvest. Never allow such fruit to rot on the ground.





Surprising West Nile Virus Discovery

When West Nile Virus spread across the country in just four years, it caught everyone by surprise. Experts believed it would take many years to travel that far, or wouldn't survive at all. Up until now, scientists have not been able to explain how it could spread so rapidly.

But a recent discovery may explain what happened. It was always thought that mosquitoes became infected when they fed on infected birds. The surprising results of new research shows mosquitoes somehow can pass the virus directly to other mosquitoes, without feeding on an infected bird. This kind of transmission has never been seen in mosquitoes before, and it is still not understood how they pass the virus to each other.

While our knowledge of West Nile virus is improving, it hasn't changed a basic fact—the best defense against contracting West Nile virus is still simply to avoid mosquito bites.



The Mouse That Soared

You've heard it said that we need a new mousetrap. Well, have you heard about the one that sends rodents flying—literally? A rat or mouse that triggers the sensor on the *Ratapult Trap* is catapulted into the air, right into a waiting bucket or cage.

The trap can be set to catapult the rodent anywhere from 1 to 50 feet, depending on how far you want it flung. The trap resets itself after each toss. No report so far on how accurate the flight is, or how large a bucket you need on the receiving end!

The inventor claims the rodent lands unharmed, but a little dazed from its unexpected flight.

*Most democratic is the bedbug chappie
Who prefers red blood to blue
And nothing makes him quite so happy
As sharing—your blood with you!*

Arnold Mallis

Myths Exposed!

Q. I have heard that wearing strong perfumes and bright colored clothing increases my chances of getting stung. Is this true?

your body, or are outdoors and drink from a glass where an insect is drinking the same liquid. In all these cases, the clothes you wear or the aroma you exude will not affect the outcome of the encounter!

A. Although it may sound logical, and it is common advice, there is no evidence that what you wear has any impact on your chance of being stung by bees or wasps.

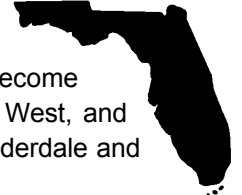


Most stings occur when you disturb a nest, walk barefoot on a bee or wasp, accidentally press against one with

Bees and wasps sting only when defending their colony or their own life. They are not going to sting you because you look and smell like a giant flower, and they are not even going to besiege you, mistaking you for a pretty petunia. Bees and wasps aren't so easily confused.

An Aggressive New Termite

The Asian subterranean termite, first discovered at a pawn shop near the Port of Miami in 1996, has been rapidly expanding its territory. It has become firmly entrenched in Miami-Dade County and Key West, and has just been discovered moving north into Ft. Lauderdale and Riviera Beach.



This termite is closely related to the destructive Formosan subterranean termite. They both eat wood at a fast rate, have large colonies, and can cause severe damage to a structure in a relatively short time. They also can infest and damage live trees.

Did You Know?

● **The 15th annual Bug Bowl** at Purdue University took place April 16-17. Among the many events was the popular spitting contest, where contestants try spitting a frozen cricket as far as they can. The winner this year spit a cricket an amazing 31 feet, 8½ inches! Another event was cockroach harness racing, in which large Madagascar hissing cockroaches are equipped with harnesses and pull matchbox-type cars.

● **Chainsaws** owe their existence to a logger and inventor named Buford Cox who was sitting on a wood pile one day watching a timber beetle larva bore through wood. The insect swiped at the wood with its large jaws, pulling out small wood chunks while making a neat oval-shaped hole. From this observation, Cox got the idea to curl the teeth on his prototype chainsaw to grab the wood and pull it out, and the rest is history!

