



HOME & GARDEN

Home and Garden information center • 12005 Homewood Road • Ellicott City, MD 21042 • 1-800-342-2507

June 2009

Indoor and Outdoor Pest Tips

- Avoid mosquito and midge problems by turning over any pots, lids or saucers that might collect water and create a breeding site. Use B.t. dunks in ponds that have no fish in them.
- Hornets and wasps, including yellow jackets, are active building nests now. Bees are also very active. Carpenter bees cause concern at this time of year. They make clean, round holes about ½ inch in diameter. They usually will not bother wood that is freshly painted or stained. They can be a problem in weathered and un-treated wood. Contact a pest control professional if you're having a serious problem with carpenter bees.
- Ticks are active year-round. Wear light colored clothing, apply repellent, and get in the habit of checking yourself, your children and pets closely for ticks after spending time outdoors. Repellents are also effective at keeping ticks at bay. Deer tick populations are especially high around the Chesapeake Bay. Keep grass and weeds mowed and move bird feeders to the edges of your yard to minimize tick problems.
- Pantry pests, like Indian meal moths, grain beetles, cigarette beetles and carpet beetles, may be found around windows trying to get out of your home. These pests can be swept up or vacuumed. Carefully check all opened packages, throw out infested foods, wash infested storage containers, store cereals and grains in closed containers and vacuum and thoroughly clean pantry shelves and floors. No chemical controls are recommended.
- Many different types of ants may be found inside and outside the home. Carpenter ants tend to nest in wood that has been previously damaged by wood rots or insects. They build their nests in outside wood piles or structures. You must locate the nest to control this pest. Try using bait stations to control minor infestations of indoor ants.
- Boxelder bugs are clustering on plants at this time and will not be trying to come into homes at this time. However, cluster flies, boxelder bugs and other insects will try to enter homes late in the summer so this is a good time to check your house and seal up entry points using screening or caulk. Camel and cave crickets are large and hump-backed with long legs and are attracted to moist basements. Keep your basement as dry as possible, using a de-humidifier if necessary.
- Mining bees are active now. They are solitary bees that nest in underground burrows, fly low over the ground and make ¼ inch holes in loose soil. They are not aggressive and the males have no stinger.
- Termites and ants are swarming inside and outside houses. See our termite publications for further information.
- Beneficial insects, including ladybird beetles, lacewing larvae and syrphid fly larvae are actively feeding on aphids. Look for signs of these beneficials before using a water or soap spray against aphids. It is usually not worthwhile to purchase and release beneficial insects, except in the case of predatory mites for controlling spider mites. Beneficials will come into your landscape if you plant flowers that bloom throughout the summer, like zinnias, yarrow, asters, mint, thyme, nasturtiums, goldenrod, daisies, dill, fennel etc. To encourage butterflies, consider planting butterfly weed, milkweed, parsley and fennel. Birdbaths and pans of water will provide the necessary water to keep beneficials from leaving your yard.

Pesticides

- Check pesticide containers for leaks and cracks. Also check containers that are old, have been stored improperly or were exposed to extreme temperatures. Call the manufacturer's phone number on the container for assistance with these types of problems or contact the National Pesticide Telecommunications Network at 1-800-858-7378.

Educating People To Help Themselves

Local Governments - U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating

The University of Maryland is equal opportunity. The University's policies, programs, and activities are in conformance with pertinent Federal and State laws and regulations on nondiscrimination regarding race, color, religion, age, national origin, sex, and disability. Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990; or related legal requirements should be directed to the Director of Personnel/Human Relations, Office of the Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Symons Hall, College Park, MD 20742.

- Check stored products for expiration dates and signs that pesticides have separated or changed texture or color. If a material was exposed to freezing temperatures it may no longer be effective. If any problems are suspected contact the manufacturer by telephone. If you've misplaced the booklet or label that came with a particular pesticide call the manufacturer for a replacement.
- Keep pesticides stored in a cool, dry location, like the basement in a locked cabinet out of reach of children. The heat that builds up in outdoor sheds can damage pesticides.
- Buying the smallest quantity of any pesticides that you anticipate needing this summer. Buy and maintain a separate sprayer for herbicides. Do not apply fungicides or insecticides with a sprayer previously used for herbicides.

**Have a pest or gardening question?
Call the Home and Garden Information Center
800-342-2507 www.hgic.umd.edu**