



# HOME & GARDEN

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

March 2009

## Indoor and Outdoor Pest Tips

- In March, several species of insects are waking up from their winter dormancy. The earliest ones are the asian lady bird beetle, elm leaf beetle, cluster flies, leaf-footed bugs, ants, and boxelder bugs. Early in the season they all seem to want to come inside your home. Prevent their entry by sealing up all small holes and cracks around the outside of your home. No chemical controls are recommended. They are harmless and can be swept up or vacuumed.
- When ants come indoors using bait stations is a very affective at controlling them, but for persistent ant problems, have the species identified to determine the best course of treatment.
- Termite swarms are becoming active. If you have a swarm, it may mean that there is a colony living under or very near to your home's foundation. To learn more about termites refer to the publication available from this website.
- Indian meal moths are a common problem of grains and grain products, cereals, bird seeds, dried pet food, etc. You may see adults flying, larvae crawling or webbing. Remove the source of the infestation and clean all jars and containers that are affected. Always check bulk foods prior to purchase for signs of meal moth infestation (silken webs in the product). Do not use insecticides to control these pests.
- Later this month is the beginning of deer tick season, however they are active when temperatures are above 50 degrees F. Check yourself, your children and your pets closely for ticks after hiking, or working outdoors. Deer tick populations are especially high where there are a lot of deer.

**Have a pest or gardening question?**

**Call the Home and Garden Information Center**

**800-342-2507 [www.hgic.umd.edu](http://www.hgic.umd.edu)**

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