



HOME & GARDEN

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

September 2009

Indoor and Outdoor Pest Tips

Indoor

- Different nuisance pests, including centipedes, crickets, and spiders are more noticeable inside the home with cooler fall temperatures. Sweep them up, but it is not necessary to treat with pesticides.
- Over the summer, indian meal moth may have been breeding in pantry products such as flour, cake mixes, cereals, bird seeds, dried pet food, etc. Remove the source of the infestation and clean all jars and containers that are affected. Do not use insecticides to control these pests.
- Fruit flies can be a problem in kitchens where fruits and vegetables are stored on counters and where kitchen scraps are saved for composting.
- Its fall - prepare for the invasion of insects! Crickets, ladybird beetles, boxelder bugs, cluster flies, elm leaf beetles and other innocuous insects will attempt to enter your home this fall for protection. Caulk, weather strip and seal up all cracks and entry points around your house foundation, vent openings, windows and doorways to prevent these critters from coming indoors.

Outdoor

- Many different types of ants may be found inside and outside the home. Many will try to come indoors in the fall looking for food. Carpenter ants tend to nest in wood that has been previously damaged by wood rots or insects. You must locate the nest to control this pest. Bait stations are very effective at controlling minor infestations of indoor and outdoor ants.
- Ticks will continue to be active throughout the fall and winter. Deer tick populations are especially high around the Chesapeake Bay. Be sure to check yourself and loved ones after working in the yard or hiking in natural areas.
- Outdoor yellow jacket nests can be treated with a wasp and hornet spray at night. Nests in high or unobtrusive locations should be left alone. Nests in wall voids should be evaluated and treated by a professional pest control company. Yellow jackets are killed by a hard freeze and will not return to last year's nest.
- Try to ignore hornet, bee and wasp nests found outside, especially if they are located in a tree. These are beneficial creatures that will not sting unless disturbed or provoked. You may notice the European hornet stripping the bark off shrubs and trees. This a large yellow and brown insect that nests in cavities in trees, stumps, wood piles, sheds, etc. and feeds on insects. It is a night flyer.
- Box elder bugs are congregating on box elder trees and may be seen in large numbers on house siding, sheds, shrubs or ground covers. The nymphs are bright red. The box elder tree is a weedy, native species. It has compound leaves with three leaflets and resembles poison ivy. The female tree has large clusters of winged seed pods. The box elder bugs congregate on the female trees from the base to the canopy.
- Check with your county/city recycling office to learn about amnesty days at local landfills for household hazardous wastes including 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.
- Avoid storing pesticides over the winter in sheds and garages. Cold temperatures can cause these materials to become ineffective. If you have questions about the efficacy of your pesticides call the manufacturer, using the phone number listed on the label.
- Follow all label directions when using pesticides. Wear long pants, a long-sleeved shirt and gloves. Avoid spraying on windy or hot days. Dedicate a separate sprayer for herbicides.

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