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CastleGuard Pest Management

Newsletter

Winter 2012

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Poetry File



Departmental

Robert Frost

An ant on a tablecloth
 Ran into a dormant moth
 of many time his size,
 He showed not the least surprise.
 His business wasn't with such.
 He gave it scarcely a touch,
 And was off on his duty run.
 Yet if he encountered one
 Of the hives enquiry squad
 Whose work is to find out God
 And the nature of time and space,
 He would put him onto the case.
 Ants are a curious race;
 One crossing with hurried tread
 The body of one of their dead
 Isn't given a moments ar-
 rest—
 Seems not even impressed.
 But he no doubt reports to any,
 With whom he crosses antennae,
 And they no doubt report
 To the higher up at court.....



BedBugs



Come Crawling Back!

For the Pest Management Professional, BedBugs have become the new Cockroaches of the first decades of the 21st century. Why the comparison?

It's not a biological one. The two pests are distinct species. There are many other differences in the two pests we will discuss here. The comparison lies in their proliferation in the US, and throughout the world. And getting rid of them is not easy.

Getting rid of Cockroaches on the other hand, has become much easier. With the introduction of pesticide baits back in the 1990's, heavy infestations could be eliminated without the use of sprays. No such "silver bullet" exists for eliminating BedBugs.

One interesting fact about Cockroaches and BedBugs that is not well known: BedBugs are a favorite prey of the Cockroach. It is not uncommon to have a problem with

both pests at the same time because of this relationship. Because both pests are undesirable, it is unlikely we have stumbled onto a natural method of BedBug control!

There are some significant differences in the two pests. Cockroaches are known carriers of food borne illnesses like salmonella, whereas the BedBug has not been found to carry any disease transferable to humans. Studies continue to go on, but thus far scientists are baffled as to why this is the case.

The feces left behind from both pests have been found to cause allergic reactions in some, and asthma in others. But these are allergy problems, not disease.

Why is it that BedBugs have come crawling back? Forty years is a long time for them to be away. The quick answer that has been given is the absence of DDT. This is taking on less importance now as research is showing that Bed-

Bugs were developing resistance to DDT back when it was used.. It is now presumed that DDT, if it were used today, would be ineffective against BedBugs.

Another answer commonly given is the change in pest management in the past fifteen years. Before the use of insect baits, liquid sprays were used liberally in homes and institutions for the control of Cockroaches. These sprays, it is postulated, helped to keep BedBugs out of buildings as a side benefit. Baits have no such secondary benefit.

Studies are underway to try and link genetic changes in the bug to their resurgence. Whatever the reason, BedBugs are back in force.

Next time you hear, "Mommy, there's a monster under my bed," check it out. Maybe there is.



THE PEST INSPECTOR'S JOURNAL!

THE ODD - THE SCARY - THE HUMOROUS

When a house is 100 years old with no signs of termites, it is tempting to say, "It's made it this far without them. We must be safe."

The picture at right dispels this myth. Just in the past year, termites invaded a cor-



ner of this old house in Rochester, NY. The welcome mat was wood to ground contact around exterior siding, and a leaky gutter.

Pictured are termite shelter tubes.



EPA



How it affects You!

Laws



Recent changes instituted by the Environmental Protection Agency affects the use of pesticides

Effective in June of 2011, rodenticides purchased in retail establishments for general consumer use may only be sold in tamper proof containers, safe from access by children, pets, and non-target species.

This means the pelletized bait that used to be left in open trays for rodents to consume will disappear from shelves. Replacing it will be locked boxes filled with block bait that will have single use applications only. This will increase the safe and proper use of over the counter products, but will also increase their cost.



Effective in November, 2011, the EPA required label changes to over 2000 pyrethroid products, limiting their uses in outdoor settings. This was instituted to cut back on the runoff of these products into public bodies of water. Pyrethroids are the most common class of pesticides used outdoors for the control of spiders, wasps, and flies.

With these new changes, it will be difficult to maintain the same level of control for pests like Cluster Flies, Spiders, Clover Mites, and Box Elder Bugs. In this case a change is needed: either the law, products, or our standards for pest free homes.



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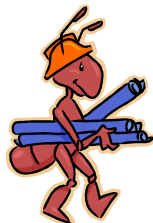


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YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED HERE!

Q: Are Fire Ants a potential problem in Western New York? We've seen them in Florida and hope we don't have to worry about them here.

A: The common Fire Ant that is referred to in the South is called the Red Imported Fire Ant. These ants form large colonies that become very aggressive when disturbed, inflicting painful bites to the aggressor. So far, their northward migration has made it to Virginia. Over time, with genetic adaptations, they may make it farther north and be a pest for us to deal with.



There is another Fire ant resident in the northeastern US and Canada, called the European Fire Ant. Like the Red Imported Fire Ant, it is an invasive species. Because it came from colder climates in Europe, it can adapt

well to northeastern climates. This ant has been confirmed in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts, with colonies beginning to be reported in New York as well. This Species is similar to the Red Imported Fire Ant in terms of aggression and biting. So far, we don't have them.

Q: I have been told that baits used to eliminate mice and rats cause them to go outside to seek water. Is this true?

A: No. I hear this question a lot so the myth has been well circulated. Mice need very little water to survive, most of which they can normally find in their foods. Rats need more water than mice, but can usually find it in a house or place of business.

The question is often asked because no one wants



ASK JOHN!

a dead rodent in their house. Though this is not a pleasant thing, it is better than a live one! And smells, if they occur at all, will dissipate in about two weeks.

Q: I think I saw a Cockroach in my upstairs bathroom. It was in the sink near the drain. Can you help me?

A: Of course. That's what I do! With so little of a description and

no picture to accompany your question, I can only guess what the insect was. In this day of easy picture taking and email, the best way to get a pest ID is to send a decent picture of the pest. There are a handful of pests we deal with all the time, and yours was likely one of them.

If it was a one time sighting and you haven't brought in anything new in boxes recently, it may have been a Silverfish. The top picture is a Silverfish, the lower a Cockroach carrying an egg capsule.

Silverfish live in warm places, usually attics, roofs, insulation. They come into living spaces in search of water. Most Cockroaches are found in the kitchen.

