

IPM NEWS

January 2004

Thank you for participating in the 2004 IPM training series.

I have included an overview of the program so that everyone will be acquainted with the program throughout the year. I look forward to working together and if you ever need information or an insect identified, please feel free to contact me.

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2004 Schedule

★ Testing ★

January (pre-program test) December (post-program test)
Testing is performed to see if the program participants were educated on new principles, techniques or information.

★ Newsletters- Quarterly ★

January, April, July, October

Newsletters will be mailed to each address with a copy to be provided for each technician.

★ Training Sessions ★

May, July, September

Training sessions will be held at your facilities at the standard meeting hours. I will call a month in advance to schedule the dates and times of the training sessions.

Small Flies

Common small flies that are a nuisance indoors include fungus gnats, phorid flies and drain flies. Proper identification of the insect can often help pinpoint the source and help create a plan of attack.

Fungus gnats are grey to black with long legs. Wings are clear to smoky colored and have very few wing veins. Larvae feed on plant roots, decaying organic matter or fungi. Larvae prefer moist environments so inspect around potted plant material as well as drip pans

that collect water under flower pots.

Phorid flies are small, brownish flies with humped backs. When disturbed, they often run along surfaces instead of flying away. Larvae are often found in decaying organic matter associated with unsanitary conditions. When searching for sources, look in the following locations: garbage containers (check under the liner also), rotting fruit or vegetable matter, garbage disposals, drain lines, refrigerator drip pans or areas of organic matter build-up on floors.

Drain flies, also called moth flies or filter flies, are tan to black and covered with hairs. Adults hold their wings roof-like over the body. Larvae feed on bacteria, fungi and other organisms that live in slime layers of drains. Inspect around leaky pipes, air conditioners, drains in floors, showers or sinks, toilets and around loose tiling. To determine if flies are emerging from a drainline, place a piece of tape across the drain but do not completely cover the opening. Go back to inspect the tape a few days later for flies.



Fungus gnat



Phorid fly



Drain fly

Tips 'n' Tricks for Flies

- Find source of fly infestation- look around indoor plants, refrigerators, garbage disposals, floor & bathroom drains, near water leaks, garbage containers, recycling containers, etc.
- For fungus gnats, repot the plant in fresh media or allow plants to dry out between waterings
- Add drain cleaning to your available service list- use a stiff brush to scrub the upper portion of the drain; chemical drain cleaners may also be used to degrade organic matter

Common House-Infesting Ants

Ants are quickly becoming the number one pest for homeowners and pest management professionals to battle. It is extremely important to correctly identify ants so that a sound treatment plan may be drawn up.

Pharaoh ants, or sugar ants, are probably encountered the most within homes. This species of ant has two nodes and a stinger that is rarely used. They are tan to yellow in color. Nests can be found numerous places indoors such as electrical outlets, potted plants, wall voids, attics and behind baseboards. Colonies may contain one up to several hundred queens and colonies spread via "budding". When ants from a colony move to a new nest site, it is called budding.

Rover ants have one node and no stinger. The petiole, or node, is almost hidden by the gaster (the bulbous part of the abdomen). They are typically brown to yellowish in color. Rover ants have 9 segmented antennae that are not clubbed. Colonies are usually found in soil, but may also be found in rotting wood. Look for these ants around fungus or moisture-damaged wood (near water leaks, in bathrooms, etc.). The best way to manage rover ants is to locate all colonies within and around a structure and treat the nests directly.

Red imported fire ants have two nodes and a stinger, which workers use to defend anything that ventures into their nest. Workers are polymorphic (of varying sizes) and red and black in color. These ants typically build large mounds in lawn areas, but occasionally they will nest inside of homes. Many times when red imported fire

ants are found trailing inside a home, they are nesting outside and moving in to search for food. Nests can have one or more queens and mating flights typically occur in the spring.

Red imported fire ants do sting readily and are of medical importance. Typically, sterile pustules will form a few days after being stung, but some people have more serious reactions to fire ant stings including anaphylactic shock.

**** Note **** Carpenter and acrobat ants will be covered in a separate article in the next issue.

Tips 'n' Tricks for Ants

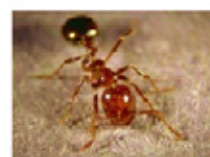
- ♦ encourage sanitation from your customers
 - ♦ helps baits be more effective since there is less available food for the ants
- ♦ seal cracks and crevices with caulk
- ♦ fix any plumbing leaks
- ♦ make sure you use the proper treatment method
 - ♦ pharaoh ant colonies will split if treated with a surface application
- ♦ locate nests by following foraging workers
 - ♦ might need to place out bait for workers to find
- ♦ apply dusts in thin, even layers
- ♦ inspect potted plants for ant colonies



Pharaoh Ant



Rover Ant



Red Imported
Fire Ant



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