

URBAN PEST NEWS

June 2005

Agent Notes

Wow! It's only June and feels as if summer is here full force already. Be prepared for pests to start moving into homes in search of water and shelter.

I am available to provide your employees with SPCB CEU credits. Please inform me about a month and a half beforehand so I can get the talk approved by the SPCB. Contact me at 512.854.9600.

Social Wasps

Paper wasps are commonly seen around homes. They are about 3/4 to 1 inch long and reddish-brown in color. These wasps often have yellow markings on the body. Paper wasps build their nest from chewed wood fibers. The comb hangs from a single filament and is often umbrella shaped. Nests typically have 20-30 adults.



Yellowjackets are often mistaken for paper wasps. These wasps are about 1/2 inch long with alternating yellow and black bands (you can identify species by the banding pattern).

Yellowjacket nests are constructed from wood fiber, forming a paper-like material. These nests are completely enclosed and have a single opening. Yellowjacket nests are typically located in the ground, but can sometimes be found aerially. Larger nests can contain up to 20,000 wasps.

Bald-faced hornets are a type of yellowjacket. These wasps are 3/4 inch long, black with white markings. The paper-like nest is pear shaped with an opening near the bottom. Hornet nests are above ground, usually high in trees. Mature colonies may contain 200-400 wasps.



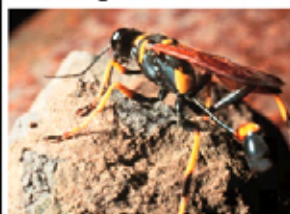
Solitary Wasps

A common solitary wasp seen when the weather begins to warm is the cicada killer. Cicada killers are



large, about 1 1/2 inches long. These wasps are rusty red on the head, thorax and wings and the abdomen striped with yellow and black. Males cannot sting, but will

fly very close to humans. Females are able to sting, but usually do not sting unless handled. Female cicada killers dig holes in lawns, flower beds or gardens. They provision these galleries insects and lay eggs there.



Mud daubers come in a variety of colors, from yellow and black to dark, iridescent blue. These wasps have a long, slender thread-like waist. Mud daubers build narrow, tube

nests out of mud. Nests are typically found in attics, under eaves, in garages or storage buildings. The nest is provisioned for developing larvae with spiders, including black widows and brown recluse. Female mud daubers usually do not defend the nest.



Tips on Managing Wasps

- Paper wasps- spray nest with rapid, knock-down pesticides; remove nest after all wasps are dead
- Social wasps- treat nests in evening when all wasps have returned to the nest
- Cicada killers- sprinkle gallery holes with carbaryl and tamp entrance closed
- Mud daubers- remove nest with putty knife; can use pesticide if needed

Brown Recluse Spiders

There are five species of recluse spiders found in Texas, with the best known being the brown recluse. These spiders are shy and do not like being in the open.

Recluse spiders are about the size of a quarter including the legs, with the body being about 1/2 inch long. They are usually light brown, but can be orangish to dark brown in color. The distinguishing characteristic is the violin or fiddle-shaped marking on the back along with the eye pattern. Recluse spiders have three pairs of eyes arranged in a semicircle on the front of the head.

Outside, recluse spiders can be found in garages, firewood piles or piles of stored materials such as lumber. Inside these spiders are found in bedrooms, closets, bathrooms, under furniture, behind baseboards, in cracks and crevices or in corners. They are most active at night when hunting for food.

People are typically bitten while sleeping, by accidentally rolling over onto a spider or while putting on clothes that the spiders are hiding in. Bite effects can be immediate or delayed. Bites cause a stinging sensation that can become very painful. Symptoms may also include fever, chills and nausea. The area of the bite will form a small blister surrounded by a large swollen area. The venom kills cell tissue, causing it to slough away, leaving an open wound that will fill with scar tissue as it heals.



New Fire Ant Baits

Two new bait products have hit the market for fire ant control.

Advion (DuPont) is 0.045% indoxacarb which is in the chemical class oxadiazine. This active ingredient works by blocking the sodium channel causing paralysis and death of the insect. Advion can be used as a broadcast bait (at 1.5 pounds per acre) or mound treatment (at 0.5 ounces per mound). In field trials, Advion has shown to suppress fire ant foraging within a few days and eliminate colonies within a week.

Extinguish Plus (Wellmark International) is a two in one bait, providing a relatively short suppression of fire ant mounds along with a longer residual. This bait combines 0.365% hydramethylnon with 0.25% S-methoprene. Extinguish Plus can be used as a broadcast bait (at 1.5 pounds per acre) or mound treatment (at 2-5 level tablespoons per mound). This mixture of active ingredients can give suppression within 2-4 weeks and a residual of 6-18 months.

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Happy Father's Day!



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