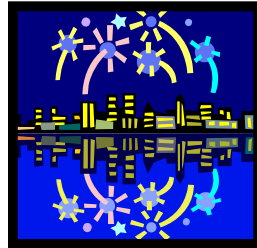




URBAN PEST NEWS

Bug Blog



Have you checked out the buggiest blog on the net? Well, it may not be the buggiest, but that's the main topic. I started a blog a few months ago in hopes that it would provide timely information to subscribers. Generally, I write about bugs that I've seen while out and about recently or about pests or pest problems that I've been getting calls about.

The blog targets mostly urban insects - landscape and structural - and is updated on a weekly basis. You can either go to the website each week or you can subscribe to have the blog delivered to your email box.

www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

Caribbean Crazy Ant

(aka Raspberry Ant)

There was much media in the past couple of months about the crazy raspberry ant, *Paratrechina* sp. nr. *Pubens* or the Caribbean crazy ant. Currently, the ant is only known to be in the upper Gulf Coast region of Texas - Houston, Pearland, Deer Park, etc. It is possible for this ant to be transported to other areas of Texas through landscaping material, potted plants, in garbage or by other means. If you suspect that you may have this ant in your area, please send samples in for identification. For more information on this ant please see this website:

http://urbanentomology.tamu.edu/ants/exotic_tx.cfm

Spotlight on MOAs

Imidacloprid

Imidacloprid is a chloronicotinyl and works as a synaptic nerve poison. This active ingredient mimics acetylcholine which is used by the nervous system to bind to receptors and "turn on" the nerve impulse which causes the nerves to contract. Normally, with acetylcholine, the nerve impulse is quickly shut off because the acetylcholine breaks down. Imidacloprid is not broken down like acetylcholine, so the nerve is being continually stimulated leading to over-excitation of the nervous system and eventual death of the insect.



Breaking News

Termidor has just been approved for use on crazy ant species in certain counties of the Gulf Coast region of Texas. If you need a copy of the label, email me at:

ebrown@ag.tamu.edu



See the House Fly article on page 2.

Photo © Wizzie Brown

White Grubs

White grubs are creamy-white, C-shaped larvae with six legs and a brownish-orange head capsule. Grubs feed on the roots of turf,



Photo © Wizzie Brown

causing it to lose vigor and turn brown. When there are large populations of white grubs, turf can be rolled up like carpeting. To inspect for white grubs, cut several sections of turf into approximately 6 inch square blocks. Make sure to include areas of suspected white grub damage. Examine grass plugs for grubs. Treatment is justified when there are more than 5-8 white grubs per square foot. It is possible that some lawns can withstand higher numbers of grubs without noticeable damage.

White grub treatments should be applied approximately 6 weeks after the heaviest flights of May and June beetles. Due to rainfall, this time period can vary from year to year, but typically in Central Texas treatment falls in July.

Insecticidal treatments may be used to manage white grubs. If soil is very dry, encourage customers to water about ½ inch the day before treatment to encourage grubs to move closer to the soil surface. Liquid or granular formulations are available for white grub management with active ingredients such as carbaryl, imidacloprid, clothianidin or halofenozide. Do not apply pesticide if rainfall is expected and sweep up any spilled material on driveways, sidewalks or streets. Read and follow all label instructions and application rates.

Hello Summer!



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House Flies

When temperatures warm up in the summer, house flies seem to come out to party. These pesky creatures are often associated with human habitation and often are seen in relation with animal feces or garbage.

House fly adults typically live about 2-3 weeks but, with available food and optimal conditions, may survive for as long as two months (without food they typically die after about 3 days). Warm temperatures allow flies to complete their life cycle in about a week.

Excessive fly populations can be annoying for home owners, so what can you do to help them? Sanitation is a large part of a fly control program, so you will need to recruit your customers to help or provide the service yourself and tack on an extra fee. For homeowners with pets, pet feces should be cleaned up 1-2 times per week. Compost piles should be turned often to encourage breaking down of organic material. Garbage should be kept in containers with tightly fitting lids and cans should be cleaned out with soap and water a few times each month. Garbage cans should be placed away from door areas.

For commercial customers, areas with dumpsters should be kept clean. Dumpsters should be located in an area away from doorways leading into the structure. Air curtains can also be installed in doorways to reduce the number of insects that move indoors.

Bag fly traps are available, but need to be baited with molasses, fruit or meat to attract house flies. Light traps are also available to help reduce fly populations. Light traps often have an ultraviolet light and a grid that electrocutes the flies that enter the trap. To capture house flies, light traps should be between 3 and 6 feet high on the wall and away from other light sources.

Breeding sites, such as dumpsters, can be treated with residual pesticides or fly baits.



For more information contact:

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