



"WE DO BUGS"

ADVANCED PEST CONTROLSM

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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2015

Vol 27 No 1

THE PEST BULLETIN

Live Safer & Healthier Lives

More and more, licensed professionals that provide regular pest control services are being recognized for what we do every day, as "**Protectors of Health**".

Why? Because our customers have far fewer encounters with biting and stinging pests, and the venom or diseases these pests may transmit. Fewer pests also means fewer germs are being spread around by pests crawling on food and food-preparation surfaces. This all means fewer illnesses for our customers and their pets. *Hurray!*

It also means fewer problems with asthma. The National Institutes of Health estimates that up to 15 million people in this country have allergic reactions to

cockroaches. Also known to cause allergic reactions are rodents, fleas, and many other pests, especially when they are in high numbers in homes or apartments that have no regular pest control service.

Beyond these medical problems, many pests damage homes or household goods, and increase the need to clean more often because of their droppings, their bodies, egg cases and webbing.

The environment is also important to protect. Because of our training, experience, equipment, and the many



professional lower-toxicity products we have in our arsenal, we get faster control, with less product used, than someone not licensed and trained. We also are experts at storing and disposing of pesticides in a safe manner, which means our customers don't have to store pesticides in their home. This is a win-win situation for everyone, and for the environment.

Thank you for trusting us in this essential role! We are proud to have an important protective part in our customer's lives.

Pest Prevention Tip of the Month

Whether stripping does more than just keep out cold air—it can also reduce the number of pests coming in. Apply new (or replace old and brittle) weather-stripping around all exterior doors, including garage doors. Caulk cracks and other openings in exterior walls, including where pipes and wires go through walls.

Pantry Pests are 'Oh So Common'

We can safely say that every kitchen has had pantry pests, and either has an infestation now, or will in the future. They are a universal problem.

By pantry pests, we mean the various moths and beetles that infest stored food. Even your great grandmother had problems with these—they spoil a lot of food! The **Indian meal moth** is the most common pantry pest we have in this area, so we'll describe it in more detail here.

The Indian meal moth was named by an early American entomologist who found it feeding on corn meal. Corn meal at that time was called 'Indian meal', hence the name. The larvae feed on many items, not just corn meal. They especially like coarse or finely ground grain, including cake and muffin mixes. They also readily eat dried fruits, dried milk, popcorn, nuts, chocolate, candy, and even spices, as well

as bird seed and dry pet food.

Sometimes infestations begin by a moth flying in from outdoors, but most problems start when infested food is brought home from the grocery store. Mice can make the problem even worse—they often hoard food in hidden caches, which eventually get infested with moth larvae.

The Indian meal moth is small, with a wingspan of about 5/8" stretched out. No other moth has the distinctive colors of the forewings of this insect—they are a whitish gray near the body, and a reddish brown or coppery color on the outer 2/3 of the wings. The moth caterpillars spin webbing, unlike beetle and weevil larvae that also infest stored food.



Thank you for your business and referrals!

New Wood-Eating Cockroach Found

A new species of wood-eating cockroach was recently discovered in China. Entomologists found a colony of more than 100 cockroaches when a rotten log was split open.



This is not the first cockroach discovered that eats wood. So far 55 species have been identified, in various places around the world. Very little is known about these cockroaches because of their secluded lifestyle. They usually live in decaying wood, but sometimes in debris on forest floors and cracks in rocks. Hopefully, none of them will find their way to our area!

Bean Weevils Date Atlantis Eruption

Many people believe that a massive volcanic eruption on the Greek island of Santorini is what inspired the legend of Atlantis. It is thought that the eruption occurred sometime between 1627 and 1600 B.C. While the exact year of the eruption is not known, a new study of bean weevils found in an ancient storage jar near the site tells us the exact time of year when the volcano erupted.



The storage jar had sweet peas that had been harvested for food, and the peas were infested with a species of bean weevil. This weevil has only one generation a year, and they infest beans while they are still growing. Because the beetles were killed instantly in the eruption, the stage they were in tells us they had to be killed *sometime between June and early July*.

Normally figuring out a season when a prehistoric volcanic eruption took place is almost impossible. Thanks to the bean weevils, the season has been established. That will make further studies of the eruption easier—especially analyzing the distribution of its ash and debris, based on seasonal weather patterns.

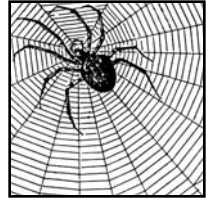
Bigger Bugs in Human Habitats

Have you ever wondered if our urban areas produce bigger bugs? Well, we now know the answer is, 'Yes!'

While some bugs don't do well around our homes and other buildings, other species thrive in this environment. The size of the pest is one good indicator of whether it is an 'urban exploiter' or not. If the pest is bigger in urban environments, it shows that being around humans and our structures greatly benefits it.

A recent study of a common pest in Australia, the golden orb-weaving spider, *Nephila plumipes*, showed that these spiders grow larger as the amount of urbanization increases. (Increases in urbanization was measured by increases in hard surfaces in an area, and decreases in leaf litter.)

Not only did they find spiders in urban areas were larger, but the weight of the spider's ovaries also increased. Bigger ovaries means that these spiders produce more and healthier eggs in urban environments.



Scientists do not completely understand why some bugs become 'urban exploiters' while others do not. But sometimes certain areas around homes and buildings are warmer than natural settings so pests multiply more rapidly, and there may be more food or places to dwell, or fewer predators.

This spider is rarely numerous in natural settings. However, it is a good example of how, in an urban setting with houses and buildings, an organism can turn into something much more serious. The spiders not only become bigger and more threatening, but unless they are controlled somehow, they multiply. . . and multiply. . . and multiply.

Bed Bugs Are Now Confirmed Disease Carriers

Despite all the pain and anguish bed bugs cause, it was believed at least they didn't transmit any diseases. *A new study changes all that.*

The study found that bed bugs can both transmit to mice the parasite that causes Chagas disease—they can also pick up the disease from infected mice.

Chagas is a common disease found in Mexico, Central and South America, inflicting 7 to 8 million people and causing over 12,000 deaths annually. In the U.S., there may be as many as 300,000 cases of Chagas disease, especially in the southern half of the country. Most cases are in Texas and the Southwest where kissing bugs, the most common transmitter of the disease, and pack rats, a common host for kissing bugs, coexist. Kissing bugs are blood-suckers (like bed bugs), and they often bite sleeping people on the face, hence the name 'kissing bugs'.

Because the symptoms for Chagas disease do not appear for a long time, a person may be infected but it would not be obvious until many years after the initial infection. The concern is that if infected bed bugs were transmitting the Chagas parasite, it would not be known until years later. And even though bed bugs can transmit the disease to mice, we still don't know for certain if they can transmit it to humans.