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JULY/AUGUST 2012

Pest Patrol News

CALL TOLL FREE 1-888-744-8989

Indoor Summer Pests

It's summertime, and pests are plentiful both indoors and outdoors! Here are some of the main summer pests that will find their way indoors this summer, and the problems they cause.

Our food: *Ants, flies, cockroaches, rats and mice* can be problems most anywhere, but they are particular problems wherever we store, cook, or serve food. These pests, plus other animals, may also eat food we put out for our pets. *Flour beetles, weevils, and meal moths* commonly infest stored human and pet foods.

Fabrics & paper: *Clothes moths and carpet beetles* are the most common pests that eat holes in our fabrics.

Silverfish and crickets can damage fabrics and papers.

People and pets:

A wide variety of pests cause us and our pets bodily harm by stinging, biting, sucking our blood (yuck!), or spreading diseases indoors. This includes *spiders, ants, cockroaches, bed bugs, fleas, flies, and others*.

Our home: *Termites, carpenter ants, and other pests* attack the wood in our homes. Other pests leave messes of stains, droppings, cast skins and insect bodies in homes. Some of this debris can cause allergies in susceptible people,



especially when there are a lot of pests involved, so it is a good idea to keep pests controlled. Others damage electronic devices, cause fires, etc.

A Note on Fall

Invaders: These pests invade homes in late summer and fall and must be specially treated for in August and September. This includes extremely annoying pests like *stink bugs, cluster flies, Asian lady beetles, elm leaf beetles, conifer bugs, and others*. Ask us about special treatments to stop these fall invaders.

Your Wasps—SOLITARY or SOCIAL?



As the area's wasp experts, we receive many calls from people who say they have "wasps", but don't know which kind. Since there are so many kinds, the following information may prove helpful.

SOLITARY WASPS and **BEES** don't live in colonies. These generally are NOT aggressive. They are unlikely to sting unless you put your hand right on them. Many can't sting, or their sting is very mild, but a few have a sharply painful sting. **Spider wasps** build nests in the ground. **Mud daubers** build mud tubes on walls and under eaves. Both provision their nests with spiders or insects for their young to feed on. **Carpenter bees** tunnel into wood and look like large bumble bees. There are also many kinds of **parasitic wasps** that lay their eggs inside living insects.

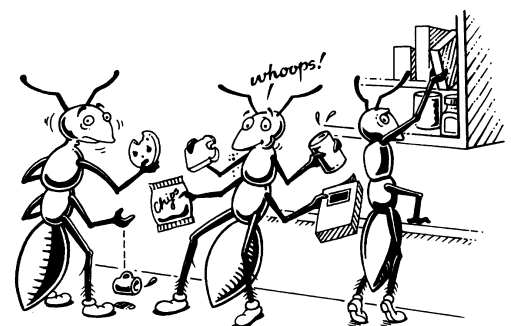
SOCIAL WASPS live in colonies. They

are more aggressive in protecting their nests, and are more dangerous especially because they attack in mass. **Yellowjackets** and **hornets** build large nests, often in the ground in abandoned animal burrows, or if above ground, often in a protected spot like a tree cavity or inside the wall of a home. Each nest has a single entrance. **Umbrella wasps**, which look similar to yellowjackets, build umbrella-shaped nests with each cell exposed and facing down. The nest is attached at a single point under eaves, attics, or branches. These wasps will attack if disturbed, but are not nearly as aggressive as yellowjackets and hornets, except for one newer species which is spreading.

Call us if you have problems with any of these or other wasps or bees.

Pest Prevention Tip of the Month

As soon as a nest attached to your home has been vacated by its bird family, remove it immediately. Various blood-sucking and scavenging bugs live in these nests, and leave them when the birds leave. These pests may crawl into homes from their abandoned nests.



Charlie suddenly realized that the package he was about to open contained chocolate-covered ants!

Iceman Had Lyme Disease

Recent tests of the famous Iceman mummy show that he was infected with the bacteria that causes Lyme disease. The Iceman, discovered in 1991, is a 5,300 year old mummy who had been frozen in ice high on a mountain in northern Italy.

This makes the Iceman the earliest known human infected by this tick-transmitted bacteria.

Besides the Lyme disease bacteria, the Iceman had another important health problem—the DNA analysis revealed that he was at high risk for hardening of the arteries, and probably would have died from a heart attack or stroke in ten years.

Analysis of the mummy shows the

Iceman was killed almost instantly by an arrow, which is still buried in his body.



Ötztal Alps, Italy

Bug Bombs Ineffective Against Bed Bugs

Total-release foggers, the type you can buy in stores to fog a room, do not work against bed bugs, according to a study in the June issue of the *Journal of Economic Entomology*. In studies using many different bed bug strains, these foggers had little, if any, effect on any of the bed bugs. Apparently the fog was not able to penetrate in cracks and crevices where bed bugs hide.



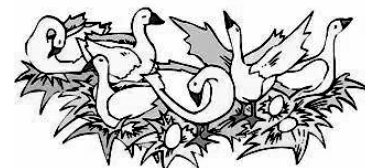
The article shows bug bombs and foggers are not just a waste of money—homeowners using them mistakenly think they will control their

bed bug problem. This causes homeowners to delay getting effective treatment by a professional pest management company, which allows the bed bugs to spread and become an even worse problem.

Rat Island Gets a New Name

Rat Island, a remote Aleutian island in Alaska, was invaded by rats when they jumped off a sinking Japanese sailing ship there in the late 1700's. The island had been a vital breeding ground for many species of sea birds, but the rats rapidly multiplied and overwhelmed the island, wiping out nearly all the island's native sea birds.

A massive \$2.5 million rat-baiting program was declared a success in 2010. Birds are once again successfully nesting there and their populations are making a comeback. Now that rats have been eliminated from the island, its name was officially changed in May from Rat Island to *Hawadax*, a much more pleasant Aleut name that means "entry" and "welcome". (For people, not for rats!)



Have you heard the new, modified bed bug rhyme?

"Good night, sleep tight, don't let the bed bugs bite... and burrow into your brain and lay eggs!"

The last part of this rhyme is said by young children with gleeful exuberance. Just so you know, though, bed bugs can't burrow into your brain—they cause enough problems just sucking your blood!



Constrictor Snakes Respond to Heartbeats

It turns out that snakes like boa constrictors that squeeze their prey to death can actually detect the heartbeat of their prey. If the heart continues to beat, they constrict longer and exert more pressure until the heart stops beating. A boa will squeeze a rat, for instance, for about 12 minutes. But dead rats with a simulated heartbeat are squeezed for 22 minutes—at more than twice the pressure.



Since prey can't turn off their heartbeat, this is a reliable way for a snake to know when their prey is dead so they can stop squeezing.

Test Results of New OFF! Clip-On Mosquito Repellent

The recent June issue of the *Journal of Medical Entomology* has a report on test results that were conducted on the new **OFF! Clip-On Mosquito Repellent** in northeastern Florida. This is a small unit that clips onto a belt or purse. It has replaceable cartridges and a tiny fan that blows vapor containing the repellent metofluthrin into the air.

In one test, the device provided 70% protection from biting mosquitoes, and in another test, it provided 79% protection. Although not 100% effective, this is considered very effective. The device may be useful for people not wanting to make repeated applications of DEET repellent, the most common and effective ingredient in mosquito repellents

