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SEPT/OCTOBER 2018
Pest Patrol News

Fall Invaders

Early fall is typically a very pleasant time of year for people to spend time outdoors. But it's also a time when many pests are very busy looking for more protected places to spend the winter. These pests start gathering on the outside of homes and other buildings, and may invade in huge numbers.

Fall invading pests enter through any exterior crevice or other opening. Some find their way into living areas quickly, but others gradually move deeper indoors during the months ahead, attracted to the warmth and lights inside. These invaders eventually 'spill out' into interior rooms.

Here are a few of the many fall invaders:

Stink bugs are spreading around the country, and this invasive newer pest not only literally stinks, but sometimes invades in large numbers.

Cluster flies and **face flies** may invade in the fall. Cluster fly maggots parasitize earthworms, our garden friends.

Lady beetles are usually orange beetles with black spots. The newer Asian Lady Beetle may invade homes in huge numbers, and leave yellowish stains when they are disturbed. Some people are allergic to lady beetles that invade their home.

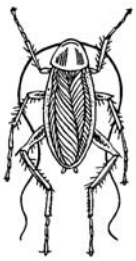
Ant populations have been growing larger all spring and summer. Some kinds of ants become more aggressive invaders in the fall, looking for food, water, or a place to bring their entire colony indoors.

Other pests that invade in the fall include **crickets, rats and mice, cockroaches, overwintering wasp and yellowjacket queens, boxelder bugs, root weevils,** and **western conifer seed bugs,** to name a few.

Our continuing treatments are needed to prevent these persistent pests from invading in the months ahead.

Cockroaches Moving Indoors

In warmer areas of the country, there are many kinds of cockroaches that live and breed year-round outdoors. Many of these can live and breed indoors as well. Outdoor cockroaches may find their way indoors throughout the year, but during the fall, as the weather cools a bit, they often come indoors in larger numbers.



Some of these cockroach species can fly, and may even fly to rooftops and crawl inside from there, but most crawl in from the ground level. They include the larger cockroaches, such as the American, smokybrown, Oriental, and woods cockroaches, all of which can grow to over an inch in length as adults. American cockroaches (palmetto bugs) are the biggest brute in this group—some may be over 2 inches long—***yuck!***

Outdoors these cockroaches live in shady, moist areas like ivy and other thick groundcovers, and places with lots of leaf litter or mulch. They also live in places like roof gutters with debris, in decaying tree holes, in wood piles, underneath homes, and in storm drains and sewers. When they come indoors they are especially attracted to moist, humid conditions like in basements and utility rooms, under sinks and refrigerators, and around drain pipes.

Our regular treatments help control these pests living around your foundation. Meanwhile, you can help by keeping the areas around the foundation free of clutter and wood piles. Keep ground covers and vines away from your foundation, and keep your roof gutters cleaned out. Don't leave pet food out overnight, as that can be an additional food source for cockroaches.

Pest Prevention Tip of the Month

Old boxes and bags of food often become a breeding place for flour moths and beetles. Periodically go through your cupboards and eat (if still good) or throw out the food that has been there the longest. Be especially vigilant with packages that are damaged or have been opened.

Oh, rats—We've got *mice!*

*For your convenience **ONLINE PAYMENTS** are now accepted at www.rescompestcontrol.com (Debit or Credit).*

A First:
Ant Steals Diamond

This is a first! A New York City gem dealer didn't need a detective to figure out who stole a diamond—he caught it on a video tape that went viral. On the 47 second tape is an ant carrying away probably a very expensive diamond from a pile of diamonds.

Ants are legendary at being able to carry large objects. In the video, the diamond is about the size of the ant, and so heavy, that sometimes the ant is carrying the gem, and sometimes it is walking backwards, perhaps trying to balance the big prize.

It's unclear why the ant wanted the diamond. Usually they carry off food, but sometimes they'll carry materials to incorporate into their nests. The diamond may have had an oily coating on it that the ant mistook for food.

So, if you have any gems, beware of sneaky ants carrying them off!

Cockroach Crawls into Woman's Ear

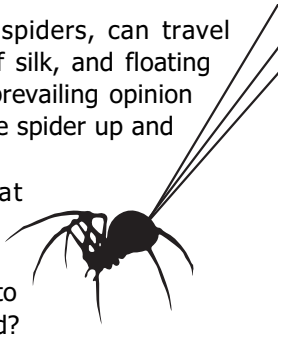
A Florida woman awoke in the middle of night with pain and a weird sensation in her ear. Using a cotton swab, she removed something, and then realized they were cockroach legs—gross! Her husband tried with tweezers, but was only able to remove two more spikey legs.

Going to the emergency room, a doctor removed what he believed was the rest of the bug, and sent her home with antibiotics.

Everyone thought the nightmare was over, but she started having soreness in her ear and trouble hearing. Nine days later she went to another doctor, who pulled out six more pieces of the dead insect. Concerned that there were even more pieces in her ear, she made a third appointment, this time with an ear, nose, and throat doctor, who pulled out even more pieces of the cockroach, including *its entire head and antennae.*

Insects crawling into people's ears is more common than you'd hope. Cockroaches are the most common insect found in ears in emergency rooms. Another reason our regular pest control services are so important!

Spiders Use Electricity to Balloon



Young spiders, and even some adult smaller spiders, can travel hundreds of miles by letting out a drag line of silk, and floating off into the air—a process called 'ballooning'. The prevailing opinion has been that the silk line catches the wind, lifting the spider up and causing it to be airborne.

Most people have been satisfied with that explanation. But if you have ever witnessed this process, you may have seen spiders ballooning when there is no wind at all. If wind is helping lift spiders into the air, how can they balloon when there is no wind? This has been an unresolved question for hundreds of years.

A recent article in the journal *Current Biology* has at last resolved this dilemma. It turns out spiders are using natural electric fields in the air. They are even able to detect these electric fields, and are more likely to initiate the ballooning process when the electric current is stronger.

Basically, the earth's surface has a negative charge while the upper atmosphere has a positive charge. This creates an electric field that is stronger on some days than others, depending on the weather. Spider silk has a negative charge, so when it is let out from the spider, it is gradually pulled up higher into the air.

This doesn't mean wind and thermals are not also involved in the spiders' long-distance air travel, but it helps give us a whole new understanding of how small spiders can use the air to travel. Spiders use this remarkable ability to reach new areas, plus re-invade areas that have been treated.

Disease Notes

West Nile Virus, spread by mosquito bites, has been detected in 36 states, as of August 3rd, the CDC reported.

Lyme Disease has now been reported in patients in all 50 states, according to a new study by Quest Diagnostics. But keep in mind that this does not mean there are ticks carrying the pathogen in all 50 states—some of the patients would have picked up the disease from a tick bite in other states. Pennsylvania tops the nation in Lyme disease cases, with many states seeing an increase in the number of these infections.

Man Survives Massive Bee Attack

An 81-year-old man in Texas was clearing land for a fence when he was suddenly attacked by a massive number of bees. The bees got in his eyes and ears, and he stumbled and ran towards a pond about 200 yards, where he jumped in, with more bees stinging him along the way.

Fortunately his wife came by early that day, and rushed him to the hospital. Over 135 stings were removed from his head alone, and he was stung all over his body. The stings could have killed him if he hadn't received quick care. The man considers it a miracle that he survived.

Unfortunately a New Hampshire man died this summer from a single yellow jacket stinging him. The man knew he was allergic to stings. His wife quickly administered an EpiPen and called 911, but he stopped breathing even before the ambulance arrived.