

Invading Pests: **THEY'RE BACK!**

It's predictable—pests come back every year as the weather warms. *But which pests this year?*

Many pests are a problem every year, and we even know about when they will start invading homes. Other pests may not be a problem for several years, and then all of a sudden, because of certain weather patterns or natural cycles, they become a major problem again. And still other pests are new to the area and still spreading. These non-native pests often turn out to be some of our most serious pests.

Because there are so many kinds of pests, there will always be problems with

some of them. After all, there are *over a million species* of insects alone that have been named, and scientists estimate that there are *10 million more* insect species waiting to be discovered and named.

So it should come as no surprise that a typical backyard is often a breeding and dwelling place for *several thousand* different kinds of bugs. Some of these are very good at finding their way indoors, either by crawling through cracks, or by flying in. A good many of our indoor pest problems

are a result of these outdoor pests invading homes.



That's why our perimeter treatments are so important. By professionally treating around the outside of your foundation and in other key areas, we can stop many unwanted pests before they have a chance to enter your home. *Our perimeter treatments*

are just one of the important tools we use to enable you to enjoy the benefits of a pest-free life!

Carpenter Ants Becoming More Active

You would think with a name like 'carpenter' that these ants would do something constructive. In forests they are actually beneficial—they act as nature's *clean-up crew*. As they excavate wood to create living quarters for themselves, they help fallen logs decompose faster, and this recycles nutrients back into a form plants can use. But you sure don't want them 'recycling' your home!



to nest in damp or rotted wood because soft wood is easier for them to excavate. Their nest-making activities can make a bad structural situation worse. For instance, when they get into an area where there is a roof leak, they cause far greater damage than just the leak would by itself.

During the months ahead you may see either crawling ants or winged swarming ants. Carpenter ants are generally most active at night, although you may see some during the day.

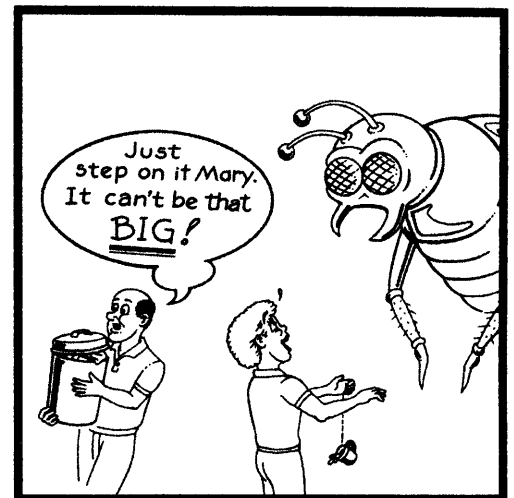
If you see ants, call us right away to arrange for a professional inspection. In some cases we can apply a special perimeter treatment around your home to prevent them from getting in. If they are already nesting indoors, we need to eliminate their nests *before* the ants cause damage and spread.

Unfortunately, each colony of carpenter ants often has several nests. They will have a main nest and they will also set up what are known as *satellite nests* both indoors and around a home. Colonies gradually enlarge these nests and establish additional nesting sites.

Carpenter ants may nest in any protected spot, but they normally choose

Pest Prevention Tip of the Month

Many people plant trees and shrubs too close to the foundation of their home. When these plants mature they can damage a house—their roots can crack a foundation, and their limbs can rub against a wall or roof. Be sure to give the plants space, and keep them pruned as needed.



Predatory Mice

The world's most important seabird colony is considered to be Gough Island, an island a thousand miles off the coast of South Africa. It is home to *10 million birds* and *22 bird species*. Unfortunately house mice invaded the island more than a century ago. While seeds make up the bulk of the diet of these mice, during the winter time they deplete all of the seeds on the island, and then the mice start eating each other, as well as seabird chicks. Startling new video footage shows the young birds don't even fight off these attackers. While the birds defend themselves against other birds, they don't appear to be programmed to fend off novel predators like mice, which have learned to attack in gangs.



The mice on Gough Island average *three times larger* than normal mice, making them among the largest wild house mice in the world. It is believed they have grown in size and become predators there because they don't have any natural enemies and they don't have to compete with rats.

Because rats are very serious predators of many kinds of birds, large baiting campaigns have been conducted in recent years that have successfully eliminated rats from many small islands. In light of this new evidence, island restoration projects are now considering the need to eliminate invading mice, as well as rats, in order to save endangered bird species.

Those Pesty Camels!

Camels, brought to Australia in the mid 19th century to help develop the Outback, were eventually replaced by cars and abandoned. They not only survived on their own in the wild, but multiplied, and now there are more than a million of them wandering about. Camels have become serious pests because they strip vegetation bare and cause other damage, resulting in substantial damage to fragile ecosystems.

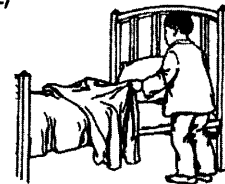


New Bed Bug Findings

Two studies just published in the February issue of the *Journal of Economic Entomology* provide us with some useful new information about bed bugs.

Does laundering kill bed bugs? Yes, washing at 140°F, or tumble drying in a dryer on a hot setting for at least 30 minutes, kills all stages of bed bugs. Soaking linens for 24 hours in plain water kills all bed bugs *except* their eggs. (Note: these findings are very different than for ticks, because most ticks survive a washing machine cycle even when it is set on hot, although a dryer set on high heat kills them.)

The other report is a **case study of a bed bug infestation** in a 223 unit high-rise apartment in Indianapolis. Within 41 months of the first confirmed bed bug infestation, 45% of the all available units had become infested. More than half of the apartments adjacent to infested apartments became infested. **More startling news:** the residents in 50% of the infested units were unaware they even had bed bugs! These facts point to the importance of public education about bed bugs, early detection, and control before the problem spreads.



More Benefits of Our Services

As we professionally control pests, we are proud to be serving an important role "PROTECTING YOUR PROPERTY, HEALTH, AND THE ENVIRONMENT." Among over 100 benefits of using our pest management services, here are five that relate to your **health**:

1. We REDUCE THE RISK OF BEING STUNG OR BITTEN by pests like wasps, bees, spiders, rats, ants, as well as pests that SUCK YOUR BLOOD, such as fleas, ticks, and others.
2. We REDUCE THE CHANCE you'll contract a FOOD-BORNE ILLNESS from germs transmitted by roaches, flies, mice, ants, etc.
3. We help REDUCE YOUR RISK OF ALLERGY to pests like cockroaches, fleas, etc.
4. We help REDUCE STRESS and AGGRAVATION that is a result of a home infested with pests.
5. We increase your PEACE-OF-MIND because you are less likely to encounter invading pests of all kinds.

Seen Any BIG Spider Webs Lately?

There is a newly discovered spider in South Africa, called *Nephila komaci*, which is in a group of spiders called golden orb-weavers. Golden orb-weavers are significant because among web-spinning spiders, they are both the largest in size and they spin the largest webs on earth—their webs often exceed three feet in diameter. The webs are also unusually strong and have been known to last for several years.



Female Golden Silk Spider

This new species is the largest in the group, with a leg span of 4 to 5 inches, about the size of a standard CD! (The *Goliath bird-eating spider* is the largest known spider. It is a tarantula with a leg span of up to 10 inches, but tarantulas don't spin webs.) There is only one golden orb-weaver in the United States. It is called the *golden silk spider*, and makes its home in Florida and other southeastern states.