

Ants



Do you have a Ant infestation? call TELE-PEST we can Help!

Ants are social insects. They evolved from wasp-like ancestors in the mid-Cretaceous period between 110 and 130 million years ago. There are an estimated total of 22,000 species of Ants on the planet. Ants have three distinct body parts, The head, abdomen and thorax. They are easily identified by their elbowed antennae and a distinctive node-like structure that forms a slender waist.

Ants form colonies that range in size from a few dozen predatory individuals living in small natural cavities to highly organized colonies which may occupy large territories and consist of millions of individuals. These larger colonies consist mostly of sterile wingless females forming castes of "workers", "soldiers", or other specialized groups. Nearly all ant colonies have some fertile males called "drones" and one or more fertile females called "queens". The colonies are sometimes described as super organisms because the ants appear to operate as a unified entity, collectively working together to support the colony.

Ants have colonized almost every landmass on Earth. The only places lacking indigenous ants are Antarctica and a few remote or inhospitable islands. Ant societies have division of labor, communication between individuals, and an ability to solve complex problems. These parallels with human societies have long been an inspiration and subject of study.

Many human cultures make use of ants in cuisine, medication and rituals. However, their ability to exploit resources brings ants into conflict with humans, as they can damage crops and invade buildings. Some species, such as the red imported fire ant, are regarded as invasive species, establishing themselves in areas where they are accidentally introduced.

Bees



If your experiencing Bee problems. Call TELE-PEST we can Help! Yellow jackets are social insects that live in a nest. They are medium sized black wasps with yellow or white markings. Depending on the type of yellowjacket, they build aerial or subterranean nests. Aerial nests are built in trees, on utility poles, or house eaves. Subterranean nests are constructed in rodent burrows, tree cavities or ground holes. When a nest is disturbed yellow jackets can inflict multiple stings that are painful and may be life threatening to individuals hypersensitive to the venom. In late summer months when yellowjacket populations increase they can create a nuisance in parks by scavenging for food from picnic areas. They can cause structural damage

to a home when they construct nests in walls or attics. Adults of some species are beneficial to man because they prey on flies and other insects.

YELLOWJACKET NESTS

Yellow jackets use vegetable fibers from trees and shrubs to produce a paper-like material for nest construction. Inside the nest is a series of suspended combs that contain cells where young are reared. The combs are enclosed inside one or more layers of a paper envelope. The surface of the envelope is gray with tan and yellow stripes and has a scalloped texture.

Nests contain three types of yellow jackets: Worker: forages for food, feeds young, nest construction. Queen: establishes nest, lays eggs. The Yellowjacket is primarily a scavenger and in the summer months adults are common around garbage receptacles in picnic areas. Nests are usually constructed in abandoned rodent burrows or in house walls and attics. Nests contain 500 to 5,000 workers and start to decline in late September to October. Common Yellowjacket (*Vespula vulgaris*) This yellowjacket can be a pest because adults are attracted to protein or sugar sources. This species is also considered a beneficial organism because workers prey on caterpillars and other insects. Nests are mostly subterranean but can be constructed inside house walls or in aerial locations. Nests are large and contain 500 to 5,000 workers. Nests remain active until September to December.

If you discover a yellowjacket nest:

AVOID THE AREA - Keep children and pets away from the nest

NOTIFY - A pest control company or governmental authorities

If you are attacked by yellow jackets

LEAVE AREA QUICKLY - Attack could last until victim vacates the area

COVER FACE - Use clothes to protect eyes and mouth from yellow jackets

First aid for yellowjacket stings

For any sting - Wash with soap and cold water

For allergic reactions - As soon as possible seek professional medical care and watch for breathing difficulties

For multiple stings or hypersensitive individuals - Immediately get professional medical care!

Boxelder Bugs



The Boxelder bug, *Leptocorouos trivittatis*, is a true bug, of the order Hemiptera, which means half-winged. Most Hemiptera are "good bugs" that is, predators such as Aquatic Bugs, Damsel Bugs, Ambush Bugs, Assassin Bugs, etc. The boxelder bugs are sort of in the middle. They do very little damage to the trees they attack, but at certain times of the year they can become a nuisance. Boxelder bugs develop by gradual metamorphosis, from egg, to nymph, then to adult.

Boxelder bugs overwinter as adults in protected places such as houses and other buildings, cracks or crevices in walls, doors, under windows and around foundations, particularly on south and west exposures. They can come out even during the dead of winter when it is cold outside and the sun is shining. In the spring, when the boxelder buds start to open, small red eggs are laid on leaves and stones and in cracks and crevices in the bark of female boxelder trees. The eggs later hatch into the young nymphs that are wingless and bright red in color with some black markings. These young bugs usually congregate on low vegetation near boxelder trees until seeds are formed on the tree, which they then start to feed on. Most of the problem is because, here in the Northeast at least, we have had a succession of warm winters. Anytime this happens, there is a good chance that boxelder bug populations will be at an all-time high. If we continue to have warm winters, we will continue to have large numbers of these insects. Of course, this actually applies to almost all animals, insects and wildlife. Winter always offers us a respite, so pray for the cold weather!

If your experiencing Boxelder Bug problems. Call TELE-PEST we can Help!

Carpenter Ants



Do you have a Carpenter Ant infestation? call TELE-PEST we can Help!

Ants of the genus *Camponotus* are known as carpenter ants because they house their colonies in galleries they excavate in wood. Carpenter ants do not eat the wood they remove during their nest-building activities, but deposit it outside entrances to the colony in small piles. The wood is used solely as a nesting site. The galleries of carpenter ants are kept smooth and clean, and are not lined with moist soil as termite galleries are.

The Carpenter Ant is generally large - from 1/4 inch (6.4mm) for a worker up to 3/4 inch (19.1mm) for a queen. They are usually black, or sometimes red and black. Carpenter ants are active indoors during many months of the year, usually during the spring and summer. When ants are active in the house during late winter/early spring (February/March), the infestation (nest) is probably within the household. When carpenter ants are first seen in the spring and summer (May/June), then the nest is likely outdoors and the ants are simply coming in for food. The natural food of the ants consists of honeydew from aphids, other insects, and plant juices, but they will readily forage for water and food scraps within the house.

Under natural conditions, carpenter ants nest in live and dead trees and in rotting logs and stumps. However, they will also construct their nests in houses, telephone poles, and other man-made wooden structures. Nests are begun in deteriorating wood which has been exposed to moisture. Often, the colony will extend its nest to adjacent, sound wood. Nests are commonly

found in porch pillars and roofs, window sills, and wood in contact with soil.

The colonies of carpenter ants are often long lived. Each colony is founded by a single fertilized queen. She establishes a nesting site in a cavity in wood. She then rears her first brood of workers, feeding them salivary secretions. She does not leave the nest nor feed herself throughout this period. The workers which are reared first assume the task of gathering food with which to feed the younger larvae. As the food supply becomes more constant, the colony population grows very rapidly. A colony does not reach maturity and become capable of producing young queens and males until it contains 2,000 or more workers. It may take a colony from three to six years or more to reach this stage. Each year thereafter, the colony will continue to produce winged queens and males, which leave their nest and conduct mating flights from May through July.

Carpenter ants rarely cause structural damage to buildings, although they can cause significant damage over a period of years because nests are so long lived. Some recent evidence indicates that they can also cause extensive damage to foam insulation.

Centipedes



If your experiencing Centipede problems. Call TELE-PEST we can Help!

Most centipedes normally live outdoors but can also live indoors especially in damp, moist basements, cellars, bathrooms, crawlspaces or unexcavated areas under the house. They are sometimes seen running rapidly across the floor with great speed, stopping suddenly to remain motionless and then resuming fast movements, occasionally directly toward the homeowner in an attempt to conceal themselves in their clothing. They have a "fearful" appearance but cause no damage to the structure, household possessions or foods. Some can bite when handled carelessly, resulting in a slight swelling or pain no worse than a mild bee sting.

Identification

Centipedes, or "hundred-legged worms," are reddish-brown, flattened, elongated animals with many segments, most of which have 1 pair of legs. The first pair of legs is modified into poisonous jaws located below the mouth. Antennae have 14 or more segments. The house centipede is grayish-yellow with 3 dark, long stripes down the back with the legs encircled with alternating dark and white bands. The actual body length is an inch or slightly longer (wormlike), surrounded with 15 pairs of very long legs making the creature appear much larger. The last pair of legs is more than twice the body length of the female. A pair of very long slender antennae extends forward from the head. They move quickly and are sometimes mistaken for long-legged spiders.

Centipedes are long-lived, sometimes up to 6 years. They over winter as adults and lay eggs

during the warm months. Usually eggs are laid in the soil and protected by adults. Some species give birth to living young.

Centipedes need moist habitats and those living outdoors are found in rotting wood, compost piles, mulch, wood chips, leaves, etc. The house centipede can complete its life cycle indoors, as it prefers dampness. They mate and breed in dark cracks and crevices. Eggs hatch into larvae which have 4 pairs of legs. There may be 5 or more larval stages with the number of legs increasing with each molt. Following larval growth are 4 adolescent stages, each with 15 pairs of legs. Centipedes prey on insects, spiders and other small animals, being considered beneficial to humans. The last pair of hind legs are modified to lasso and hold the victims until they are paralyzed by venom from the jaws connected to poison glands. The house centipede runs swiftly when disturbed and can climb walls easily. Some are found around sump pumps in basements or bathrooms and other humid, dark hiding places where they are most active at night. They usually occur in small numbers and, in spite of their fearful appearance, they are considered harmless to humans. Most in the United States do not bite humans, but a few tropical species will bite, inflicting painful wounds. The jaws of young centipedes are usually not strong enough to cause more than a slight pinch when biting.

Earwigs



If your experiencing Earwigs problems. Call TELE-PEST we can Help!

Earwigs may cause alarm to homeowners when discovered indoors. They have a frightful appearance, move rapidly around baseboards at the ground level, and may emit a foul-smelling, yellowish-brown liquid from their scent glands. These creatures, active at night while hiding during the daytime, normally live outdoors and do not establish themselves indoors. They are harmless to humans and animals, although if handled carelessly, the earwig can give a slight pinch with the forceps. Serious feeding damage may occur on flowers, vegetables, fruits and other plants, giving the leaves a ragged appearance with the numerous, small, irregular holes. Also, decomposing organic matter is consumed. They are considered temporary pests in spite of the fact that they sometimes occur in large populations.

The name earwig is derived from a European superstition that these insects enter the ears of a sleeping person and bore into the brain. This belief is totally unfounded. Earwigs develop from egg to adult through gradual metamorphosis with four to five nymphal instars or stages. During the spring or autumn, females lay 20 to 50 smooth, oval, pearly-white or cream-colored eggs in a below-ground chamber (upper two to three inches of soil). The female moves, cleans, and provides maternal care by protecting the eggs and new young until the first molt. Young then leave the nest, fend for themselves and mature in one season.

DESCRIPTION:

Adult earwigs are flattened insects, up to 1 and 1/4 inches in length, and light red-brown to black. Some species are wingless but others have a pair of leathery forewings covering a few segments of the abdomen and the membranous hind wings, which have the tips protruding. The forceps-like appendages at the end of the abdomen are strongly curved in the male. The female's appendages are smaller and less curved. The forceps are used primarily for defense and during courtship and cannot harm people. Earwigs are primarily scavengers on dead insects and rotted plant materials. Some species are predators. Only a few of the winged species are good fliers. They are often transported great distances in plant materials and occasionally in other freight.

HABITAT:

They are active at night and some species are attracted to lights in large numbers. During the day they usually find shelter beneath stones, boards, sidewalks, or debris. Earwigs are rapid runners and migrate short distances in this manner.

LIFE CYCLE:

Eggs are laid in small batches or clutches in a chamber two to three inches beneath the soil surface. The mother guards the eggs and the newly hatched young. After the first molt, the young leave the nest and fend for themselves. They differ from the adults in color pattern, shape and size of forceps, lack of wings, and body size. The young usually mature in one season. Most species in this country have one generation per year, overwintering as eggs or adults in the soil. Eggs and young require moisture. Heavy rains are detrimental to both forms, as are rapid temperature changes.



Do you have a Flea infestation? call TELE-PEST we can Help!

Adult fleas are about 1/16-1/8 inch long, dark reddish-brown, wingless, hard-bodied (difficult to crush between fingers), have 3 pairs of legs (hind legs are enlarged to enable jumping) and are flattened vertically or side to side (bluegill or sunfish-like) allowing easy movement between the hair, fur or feathers of the host. Fleas are excellent jumpers, leaping vertically up to 8 inches and horizontally 16 inches. (An equivalent hop for a human would be much higher than a ten story building or longer than the football field. They have piercing-sucking mouth parts and spines on the body projecting backward. Eggs are smooth, oval and white-colored. Larvae are 1/4 inch long, slender, straw-colored, brown headed, worm like, bristly-haired creatures (13 body segments), that are legless, have chewing mouth parts, are active and avoid light. Pupae are enclosed in silken cocoons covered with particles of debris.

Fleas pass through a complete or 4 stage life cycle consisting of egg, larva, pupa and adult. Completion of the life cycle from egg to adult varies from 2 weeks to 8 months depending on the temperature, humidity, food and species. Normally after a blood meal, the female flea lays about 15- 20 eggs per day, and up to 600 in a lifetime. Fleas are non-host specific which means they will feed on the blood of humans as well as our pets. Eggs hatch in 2 days to 2 weeks into larvae found indoors in floor cracks and crevices, along baseboards, under rug edges and in furniture or beds.

German Roaches



Do you have a Cockroach infestation? call TELE-PEST we can Help!

Adult German Cockroaches are light Brown in color except for the shield behind their head which is marked with two dark stripes that run lengthwise down their body. Young German Roaches are wingless and nearly black in color with a single stripe running down the middle of their back. Egg Capsules are a Light Tan in color. German Roaches are the most common roach found in houses and restaurants. They have a flattened oval shape with spiny legs and long antenna. The adults can range upwards to about 1/2 inch in length. They eat food of all kinds and may hitchhike into the house on egg cartons, sacks of potatoes, onions or plain paper sacks. They develop into large populations and can flourish throughout the house, especially in kitchens and bathrooms. German Roaches may be found clustered behind baseboard moldings, or in cracks around cabinets, closets and pantries. Because they are Nocturnal when seen during the day in clusters the population can be quite large. A female can produce 4 to 6 egg capsules during her lifetime, each containing 30 to 40 eggs, and may live as long as 200 days. Eggs hatch in 28 to 30 days and nymphs may develop in 40 to 125 days. German Roaches can contaminate food with certain bacterial diseases that can result in food poisoning, dysentery or diarrhea. Paper sacks placed between refrigerators and counter tops may result in an incubating effect resulting in one of the most common avenues of transmission of German Roach Infestations.

House Crickets



If your experiencing Cricket problems. Call TELE-PEST we can Help! Crickets are known for the noisy chorus that they make by chirping on summer evenings. This chirping noise comes from scraping motions of wings of males. They are often found in homes. Crickets are also the

subject of several superstitious stories. Crickets in the house have been seen by some as a sign of good luck or a sign of death.

Crickets are exothermic creatures. This means they have no internal way of regulating their temperature. Their internal temperatures are generally very close to the environmental temperature. Since chemical reaction rates are influenced by temperature and muscular movement is accomplished through a series of chemical reactions it is reasonable that the movement of cricket wings and the corresponding chirps may be directly influenced by temperature.

Crickets are active at night and prefer dark, moist environments. Some species of crickets are attracted to lights at night. They like to inhabit vegetation and may be found under rocks, boards and other items in yards and fields. The calls of the males are intended to attract females. It is thought that the females prefer males with the longest calls. Females can distinguish between calls and move toward the males. The males tend to establish territories which they defend against other males.

House Mouse



Do you have a Mouse infestation? call TELE-PEST we can Help!

In the wild state, house mice eat many kinds of vegetable matter, such as seeds, fleshy roots, leaves and stems. Insects (beetle larvae, caterpillars, and cockroaches) and meat (carrion) may be taken when available. In human habitation, mice consume any human food that is accessible as well as glue, soap, and other household materials. Many mice store their food or live within a human food storage facility.

Reproduction: House Mice are characterized by their tremendous reproductive potential. Breeding occurs throughout the year, although wild mice may have a reproductive season extending only from April to September. The estrous cycle is 4-6 days long, with estrus lasting less than a day. Females experience a postpartum estrus 12-18 hours after giving birth. Females generally have 5-10 litters per year if conditions are suitable, but as many as 14 have been reported. Gestation is 19-21 days but may be extended by several days if the female is lactating. Litters consist of 3-12 (generally 5 or 6) offspring, which are born naked and blind. They are fully furred after 10 days, open their eyes at 14 days, are weaned at 3 weeks, and reach sexual maturity at 5-7 weeks. Average life span is about 2 years in captivity, but individuals have lived for as long as 6 years. In the wild, most mice do not live beyond 12-18 months.

Behavior: In the wild state, house mice generally dwell in cracks in rocks or walls or make underground burrows consisting of a complex network of tunnels, several chambers for nesting and storage, and three or four exits. When living with humans, house mice nest behind rafters,

in woodpiles, storage areas, or any hidden spot near a source of food. They construct nests from rags, paper, or other soft substances and line them with finer shredded material. House mice are generally nocturnal, although some are active during the day in human dwellings. House mice are quick runners (up to 8 miles per hour), good climbers, jumpers, and also swim well. Despite this, they rarely travel more than 50 feet from their established homes. House Mice are generally considered both territorial and colonial when living commensally with humans. Dominant males set up a territory including a family group of several females and their young. Occasionally, subordinate males may occupy a territory or males may share territories. Females establish a loose hierarchy within the territories, but they are far less aggressive than the males. Aggression within family groups is rare, but all the individuals in a territory will defend an area against outsiders. Young mice are generally made to disperse through adult aggression, although some (especially females) may remain in the vicinity of their parents. Habitat: House mice generally live in close association with humans-- in houses, barns, granaries, etc. They also occupy cultivated fields, fence rows, and even wooded areas, but they seldom stray far from buildings. Some individuals spend the summer in fields and move into barns and houses with the onset of cool autumn weather.

Millipedes



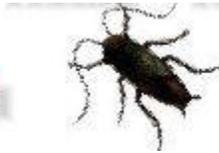
If your experiencing Millipede problems. Call TELE-PEST we can Help!

Millipedes are one of the few life forms that can give us a flashback glimpse of early life. Century after century, eon following eon, they have survived, coming down to the present day almost unchanged. Occupying dark moist habitats, they are seldom seen except on rainy days, perhaps crossing a wet log. In more pleasant weather, if someone happens to roll over a millipede's log home, the creature will be revealed slowly moving away from the disturbance.

Millipedes belong to the class Diploida, which literally translated means "thousand legs," although they never have that many. Millipedes have a long, cylindrical, segmented body that has 25 to 100 segments. Two pairs of legs are found on each body segment except for the three segments following the head. These segments, called the thorax, have only one pair of legs per segment. Despite their many legs, millipedes move very slowly. Their bodies are adapted for pushing through decaying leaf litter and burrowing into the soil, not for sprinting. They glide slowly, successive waves of movement passing along rows of legs. Due to their slow movements, millipedes would be an easy target for predators if they didn't have several means of defense. When disturbed, they curl themselves into a tight spiral with the head, numerous legs, and the vulnerable body parts in the center of the protective casing. If this does not deter predators, the millipedes also have a system of chemical warfare. When threatened, a millipede can discharge an obnoxious toxic liquid containing hydrocyanic acid from a row of glands along each side of its body. Despite these defensive adaptations, shrews do not hesitate to eat them, and in some forest habitats millipedes make up the bulk of a shrew's diet.

Millipedes are found throughout Pennsylvania, living among leaf litter, under bark, or in rotting logs. During dry weather they may burrow into the ground. Millipedes are vegetarians, feeding chiefly on decomposing plant tissues. Female millipedes have very little maternal instinct. Once the female lays her eggs in the ground, enclosing them in an earthy capsule, she leaves. When the young hatch they have six segments and only three pairs of legs and resemble wingless insects. The young grow in length by molting. With each molt the millipede will add three or more segments and additional legs. Millipedes have a life span of two to seven years. Creatures like the millipede, with its multitudes of legs, may seem unpleasant to some people, but they are not dangerous. The gentle millipede does not bite and it performs a valuable service for humans: it is one of nature's best composters--eating decaying plants and returning the organic matter to the soil.

Oriental Roach



Do you have a Oriental Cockroach infestation? call TELE-PEST we can Help!

The Oriental cockroach is often called the waterbug, and sometimes the black beetle, or just plain, beetle.

Appearance: Adult Oriental cockroaches are very dark-brown or shiny-black. The female is slightly longer than the male -- 1 1/4 inch to his 1 inch. Unlike other domestic cockroaches, the female does not develop wings, but produces only short triangular wing pads. The male has wings, but they are short and broad, leaving about 1/4 of the abdomen exposed.

Life Cycle: The Oriental cockroach female produces an average of eight egg capsules from spring to mid-summer. Unlike other urban cockroaches, the Oriental roach produces only one generation per year where temperatures are cool in winter. The egg capsule is carried for little more than 24 hours, and then is placed in a protected spot; it is irregularly shaped, black, 3/8 inch long, and 1/4 inch wide. Eggs hatch in two months.

Nymphs are active from about March through much of the summer. During this period they molt seven to ten times, and are reddish-brown to black in color, except in the first stage when they are pale tan. The older brown Oriental cockroach nymphs are very difficult to distinguish from the American cockroach nymphs.

In early spring, only adult Oriental cockroaches are found. By late spring, nymphs are abundant. As nymphal numbers increase, the adults die off and by August any adults are new ones. By fall, almost the entire population is adult. Neither males nor females fly. Behavior and Harborage Oriental cockroaches favor crawl spaces, spaces between the soil and building foundations, the undersides of stoops and sidewalks, landscaping mulches, water meters, basements and their

floor drains, and other such moist places. These cockroaches frequently live in floor drains that drain directly outside; these drains are also used as entrances to homes. The Oriental cockroach prefers starchy food, and builds up populations around garbage cans. They tolerate lower temperature ranges than other roaches and may winter in rock walls or such protected sites. These cockroaches are more sensitive to lack of water than other roaches.

Pantry Pest



Do you have a Pantry Pest infestation? call TELE-PEST we can Help!

Stored foods that are most commonly infested include flour, grains, cereals, crackers, macaroni, powdered milk, dried fruits and cured meats. Pantry Pest may also infest other grain-based items such as pet foods and birdseed.

The most common in this area are: Indian meal moths, grain beetles and flour beetles.

The Insects have a four stage life cycle, egg, larva, pupa and adult. They can be present in any or all stages when food is purchased. Because we keep our houses warm, these insects may continually reproduce and many stored product infestations can be found nearly any time of the year.

The first indication of an infestation is often presence of small brown beetles, moths or worms in cupboards or on counters. Upon closer inspection, insects may also be found in opened packages or containers of food and in the cracks and crevices of cupboards. Unopened packages may also become infested because some of these insects can readily chew into cardboard and foil packaging. Insects can be brought into the home along with infested food products.

They can multiply and spread to other stored foods. Once an infestation is suspected, identify the pest and try to locate the source. Occasionally, the source of an infestation can be very hard to find. It may be in an unopened package from the store. Consider the possibility food may have been spilled next to or behind hard-to-move appliances.

Pantry Pest Prevention: Purchase food in package sizes that can be used up in a short time. Do not store food products more than two to four months, if possible. Use older packages before newer ones and opened packages before unopened ones.

When purchasing packaged foods, be certain containers are not damaged and seals are intact. Store dried foods in insect-proof containers such as screw-top glass, heavy plastic or metal containers. This will prevent entry or escape of insects. Cardboard, paper or plastic wrapping will not prevent insect infestations.

Keep food storage areas clean and do not allow crumbs or food particles to accumulate, as exposed food will attract insects. Cleanliness is especially important in areas where pet foods and birdseed are stored.

Pill Bugs



If your experiencing Pill Bug problems. Call TELE-PEST we can Help!

Description: Adults grow to about 3/8 inch long, have a number of rounded body segments and seven pairs of legs. and are capable of rolling into a tight ball when disturbed, a behavior that resulted in their common name, "roly-polies." Their oval shape gives them their common name, pill bug.

Pill Bugs are terrestrial crustaceans, and are more closely related to lobsters, shrimp and crayfish. They even have gills. When their aquatic habitats dry up they leave in search of other bodies of water and occasionally invade homes and structures, hopping about.

Life Cycle: Females lay eggs that they carry in a pouch underneath the body. Eggs hatch into young sowbugs and Pill Bugs that resemble adults but are smaller. They remain in the pouch up to 2 months after hatching. Development to adults occurs in about a year and they breed mainly in the spring. They may live up to 3 years. Up to three broods may be produced annually.

Pill Bug Diet: Pill bugs feed on decaying organic matter and are considered scavengers. Usually, they will feed on decaying plant matter; however, if there is no adequate food source available, they will occasionally feed on decomposing animal matter as well. Pill bugs do not present a health threat and cannot cause structural or significant agricultural damage. Sometimes, they may hurt young plants but will not feed on them enough to kill them.

Powder Post Beetle



Do you have a Powder Post Beetle infestation? call TELE-PEST we can Help!

The Powder Post Beetle is a woodboring beetle. The powder post larvae can spend months or maybe years inside wood developing and feeding on the woods starch content. The adults then begin to emerge out of tiny pinholes. The term "powderpost" comes from the fact that the larvae of these beetles feed on wood and, given enough time, can reduce it to a mass of fine powder. Because of this behavior, they are considered pests.

Rats



Do you have a RAT infestation? call TELE-PEST we can Help!

Rat, common name for any large member of a family of rodents, with dull-colored, coarse fur; long tails; large ears; and a pointed snout. Rats have extremely powerful teeth, with which they often gnaw through wooden planks to get at stores of food, and they have even been known to bite holes in lead pipes. They are usually nocturnal and live in human habitations, in forests, in deserts, and on seagoing ships. They are extremely prolific, breeding 1 to 13 times a year and producing 1 to 22 young in a litter. Most species of rats are herbivorous, but some are omnivorous.

Species: Two species of rats are found almost throughout the world. The brown rat, which is also known as the Norway rat, house rat, gray rat, barn rat, and wharf rat, is the larger of the two. It attains a length of about 18 to 26 cm (about 7 to 10 in), not including the tail, which is about 15 to 22 cm (about 6 to 9 in) long. It is grayish-brown above and sooty white below. This common species does much damage to foodstuffs in storehouses, carries fleas that transmit such diseases as plague and typhus fever, and attacks domestic animals, poultry, and occasionally humans. The brown rat was carried on ships from Europe to the United States late in the 18th century, and it has gradually displaced the black rat, a smaller, less aggressive species introduced into North America in about the 16th century. The black rat, which is almost completely black in color, is now prevalent in tropical, and subtropical America and in the southern United States. The black rat produces 1 to 11 young in a litter. Like the brown rat, the black rat spreads disease and destroys property. Albino strains of both the black and brown rat are bred for use in biological study; these white rats have been extensively used for nutritional studies and in many other areas of scientific research.

Control: Rats are controlled by the use of traps or poison. Most rat poisons are dangerous, however, and should be used only under professional supervision.

Silverfish



If your experiencing Silverfish problems. Call TELE-PEST we can Help!

Silverfish eat a wide variety of foods, including glue, wallpaper paste, book bindings, paper, photographs, starch in clothing, cotton, linen, rayon fabrics, wheat flour, cereals, dried meats,

leather and even dead insects.

Identification: Silverfish have flat, elongated bodies 1/3 to 3/4 inch long and broad near the head, tapering toward the rear-somewhat "carrot" shaped. These fragile, wingless insects are covered with scales and have two long, slender antennae at the head and three long, antennae-like appendages at the rear. These three appendages, one directed straight back and the other two curving outward, plus the two antennae, are nearly as long as the body. Sometimes these insects are known as "bristletails."

The silverfish adult is about 1/2 inch long with a uniform silvery or pearl-gray color, whereas the four-lined silverfish is about 5/8 inch long and the back displays four dark lines the length of the body. The gray silverfish is about 3/4 inch long and uniform light to dark gray. The firebrat is about 1/2 inch long, grayish and mottled with spots and bands of dark scales. Young resemble the adults except they are smaller. Eggs are whitish, oval and about 1/32 inch long.

Life Cycle and Habits: Silverfish are active at night and hide during the day. When objects are moved where they are hiding, they dart out and seek new hiding places. The silverfish lives and develops in damp, cool places (prefers 75 to 95 percent relative humidity), often in the basement, bathroom and kitchen. Large numbers may be found in new buildings where the walls are still damp from plaster and green lumber. The firebrat is quick moving and lives in dark places above 90 degrees F such as around ovens, furnaces, boiler rooms and fireplaces or insulation around hot water and heat pipes. These insects follow pipelines from the basement to rooms on lower floors, living in bookcases, around closet shelves, behind baseboards and behind window or door frames. They are hardy and can live without food for many months. Bristletails prefer to eat vegetable matter. Indoors, they will feed on rolled oats, dried beef, flour, starch, paper and paper sizing (which contains starch), gum and cereals. Outdoors, they can be found under rocks, bark and leaf mold, and in ant, termite, bird and animal nests. Silverfish females may lay over 100 eggs during a lifetime. Eggs are laid singly or two to three at a time in small groups, hatching in three to six weeks. Young silverfish and firebrats resemble adults except being smaller, white and take on the adult color in four to six weeks. Adults may live two to eight years. Firebrats lay about 50 eggs at one time in several batches. Eggs hatch in about two weeks under ideal conditions. Silverfish and firebrats, depending on the species, may reach maturity in three to twenty-four months. These insects normally hitchhike into the home in food, furniture, old books, papers and old starched clothing. Unlike other insects, they continue to molt after becoming adults. Forty-one molts have been recorded for one firebrat. Populations do not build up fast. A large infestation in the house usually indicates a longtime infestation.

Control Measures: Sanitation is important but not entirely effective in reducing populations because insects often reside between wall partitions, in insulation materials, in books and papers, among book shelves and in other protected places. However, be sure to remove old stacks of newspapers, magazines, papers, books and fabrics plus foodstuffs spilled and stored for long periods of time. Often reducing available water and lowering the home's relative humidity with dehumidifiers and fans is helpful. Repair leaking plumbing and eliminate moisture around laundry areas. Lighting a dark, sheltered area may force these insects to move to new

sites where they can be controlled more easily. Once the infestation has been eliminated, sanitation will help prevent re-infestation.

Spiders



Do you have a Spider Problem? call TELE-PEST we can Help!

Spiders are familiar to almost everyone. They are found virtually everywhere. They are commonly associated with water, soil, leaf litter, and low, dense plant growth. Only a few of the over 2500 U.S. species may be found in human habitations.

Spiders, like insects, belong to a larger group of animals known as Arthropods. Spiders differ from insects in several ways; as a group spiders are recognized by their two-segmented bodies, eight legs (insects always have six), and 4-8 simple eyes. In addition, spiders always lack wings and antennae. Hence, spiders are more closely related to ticks, mites, daddy-longlegs, and scorpions than to insects.

One interesting attribute of spiders is their production and use of silk. It is produced by a set of special glands located near the tip of the abdomen; it is secreted as a liquid which hardens when exposed to the air. Spiders use silk to capture prey (webs and traps), build shelters, wrap egg sacks, and for locomotion (draglines and parachutes).

Spiders hatch from eggs which are bundled together in sacs. The female may carry the sack with her or tuck it away in a secluded spot. The young spiders (called spiderlings) are miniature replicas of adult spiders, and they grow through a series of molts. Most spiders live for 1-2 years. Since spiders are cold-blooded invertebrates, their activity is greatly reduced or even curtailed by cold temperatures.

Spiders are beneficial to man. They are predaceous and feed on a variety of live prey including insects, centipedes and even other spiders. In fact, in many habitats spiders are the dominant group of predators and frequently outnumber all other predators combined. Some spiders use special webs or snares to capture their prey, while others actively stalk or ambush their prey.

Spiders lack jaws for chewing. Instead, they have fang-like pinchers and special poison glands. This poison is used to subdue the prey by injecting it through the hollow fangs. Then, a unique enzymatic saliva is used to predigest the muscle and internal viscera of the prey so that it can be sucked up by the spider.

Stink Bugs



Do you have a Stink Bug Problem? call TELE-PEST we can Help!

The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug originally found in East Asia, was accidentally introduced into eastern Pennsylvania. It was first collected in September of 1998 in Allentown, hitching a ride as a stowaway in packing crates.

The name “stink bug” refers to the scent glands located on the dorsal surface of the abdomen and the underside of the thorax.

Stink Bugs feed on a wide variety of host plants. Fruits attacked include apples, peaches, figs, mulberries, citrus fruits and persimmons. This true bug has also been reported on many ornamental plants, weeds, soybeans and beans for human consumption. Feeding on tree fruits such as apple results in a characteristic distortion that renders the fruit unmarketable as a fresh product. This insect is becoming an important agricultural pest in Pennsylvania. In 2013, it produced severe damage and losses in some apple and peach orchards. It also has been found feeding on blackberry, sweet corn, field corn and soybeans. In neighboring states it has been observed damaging tomatoes, lima beans and green peppers.

Stink Bug infestations are not known to cause harm to humans, but in the fall when it becomes colder Adult Stink Bugs invade homes under siding, through cracks around windows and door frames. Once inside they will go into a state of hibernation to survive the winter and the warmth inside a house causing them to become active and may fly around. The stink bug will not reproduce inside structures or cause damages. However by simply handling the bug, squashing, or pulled into a vacuum cleaner, can trigger it to release a pungent odor that is quite apparent.

Wasp



If your experiencing Wasp problems. Call TELE-PEST we can Help!

Paper Wasp: Paper wasps should not be confused with yellow jackets and bald faced hornets. Paper wasp nests are open and cells are not covered with a cap (in an envelope).

Life Cycle: Paper wasps are semi-social insects and colonies contain three castes: workers, queens and males. Fertilized queens, which appear similar to workers, overwinter in protected habitats such as cracks and crevices in structures or under tree bark. In the spring they select a nesting site and begin to build a nest. Eggs are laid singly in cells and hatch into legless grub-like larvae that develop through several stages (instars) before pupating. Cells remain open until developing larvae pupate. Sterile worker wasps assist in building the nest, feeding young and defending the nest. A mature paper wasp nest may have 20 to 30 adults. In late summer,

queens stop laying eggs and the colony soon begins to decline. In the fall, mated female offspring of the queen seek overwintering sites. The remainder of the colony does not survive the winter.

Habitat, Food Source(s), Damage: Mouthparts are for chewing. Nests are built from wood fiber collected from posts and occasionally from live plant stems, causing some plant damage. This fiber is chewed and formed into a single paper-like comb of hexagonal cells. Nests are oriented downward and are suspended by a single filament. Mature nests contain up to 200 cells. Paper wasps prey on insects such as caterpillars, flies and beetle larvae which they feed to larvae. They actively forage during the day and all colony members rest on the nest at night.

Pest Status: Nests commonly occur around the home underneath eaves, in or on structures and plants; wasps attack when the nest is disturbed and each can sting repeatedly; stings typically cause localized pain and swelling, but in sensitive individuals or when many stings occur (as with most arthropod stings) whole body (systemic) effects can occur including allergic reactions that may result in death; males are incapable of stinging because the stinger on the females is a modified egg-laying structure (ovipositor) and it is not present in males; wasps feed on insects, including caterpillar pests, and thus are considered to be beneficial insects by many gardeners.