Nuisance Invaders

“Bugs” that enter and homes but do not reproduce within a home

Damage produced – only that they are there
Arthropods found in homes in spring often result from seasonal migrations.
Clover mites often accidentally enter buildings during warm days in spring.
Clover mite activity – Late February through Late April
Summer Time Brings:

- Root weevils
- Earwigs
- Springtails
- False chinch bugs
- Duff millipedes
- Windscorpions
- Centipedes
- Certain ground beetles
Root Weevils

Tend to move indoors during hot, dry weather in summer
Springtail Migrations

• Usually originate in lawns
  – Feed on decomposing plant matter

• Conditions favoring noticeable household migrations:
  – Wet spring weather
  – Sharp transition to hot and dry conditions in early summer
Springtails

Fact Sheet 5.602
Summer Lighting and Some Indoor Pest Events
Windscorpion (aka Sunspider, Solpugid)
Scorpions are active in summer
Some Ground Beetles are attracted to summer time lights
Insects That Commonly Winter in Homes

- Western conifer seed bugs
- Boxelder bugs
- Elm leaf beetles
- Cluster flies
Some Winter Time Residents of Colorado Homes
Cluster Flies

The most common “winter fly”
Ceroxys latiusculus, a picturewinged fly that commonly enters buildings in Fall
Insects crash computers

OURAY — Bugs brought down Ouray County’s computer system over the Thanksgiving holidays, but the bugs weren’t of the computer-litch variety. They were bona fide insects.

The bugs — the black-and-orange, antenna-waving box elder variety — were found inside a new computer server by computer technicians. The technicians were called in by county workers who returned from Thanksgiving vacation to find their computers inoperable. The county’s next call for help went to an exterminator.

The bugs, which were apparently attracted by the server’s heat, knocked out computers in the treasurer’s, clerk and assessor’s office and held up payroll checks for county employees.
Western conifer seed bug, *Leptoglossus occidentalis*
Blood-sucking Conenose (*Triatoma* spp.)

Not found in Colorado!
New State Record (2018)

Elm Seed Bug
Arcocatus melanocephalus

A potentially significant new nuisance invader of homes in summer
Develops on seeds of elm
No harm to trees
Moves into buildings in summer, early autumn
Nuisance issues, some associated odor
General Principles for Managing Nuisance Household Invaders

- **Treat/Remove host plants**
- Seal openings of home prior to time when insects enter the building
  - Barrier insecticide applications can supplement
  - Dusts are sometimes blown behind walls
- Dispatch individual insects as they are observed
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...and remember - These kinds of problems happen to the nicest of people

It's Not Your Fault!
A Poem on the Subject:
The Boxelder Bug Prays

I want so little,
For so little time,
A south window,
A wall to climb,
A radio knob,
The Boxelder Bug Prays, cont'd:

Nothing to eat,
Nothing to rob,
Not love, not power,
Not even a penny,
Forgive me only for being so many.

- Bill Holm