School IPM Newsletter - July 2013

Healthy Colorado Schools

www.ccsipm.wordpress.com

Large numbers of winged ants emerge from colonies

FLYING ANTS

Spectacular swarms of flying ants are a common summer phenomenon. These winged forms – "flying ants" -- usually emerge 3 to 5 days after a heavy rain. So what's going on? Ants are social insects. The colony is established through the initial efforts of a mated "queen", a sexually mature female. The winged ants, some females - the potential future queens - and the majority males are trying to start a new colony. Although dramatic, swarming ants pose no harm or risk of increased ant infestation. Sometimes, winged ants are seen moving into the house or building. In some cases an established colony may exist within the building and need to be treated. Carpenter ants and pharaoh ants are two species that can produce a nest within a building. See our fact sheet on ants at : **Colorado Pest Press**

IPM TIP:
The first step in IPM is to identify the pest!

USING BAITS TO CONTROL PAVEMENT ANTS

Ants are the most frequent and persistent pests encountered around homes and buildings. One of the most common is the tiny pavement ant (1/16 to 1/10 inch long). Look for small mounDs at the entry of nests, often under stones, pavement, next to building and under building foundations. The mistake most people make when trying to control ants is only spraying the ones they see. This approach usually fails because the ants seen foraging around the school are only a small portion of the colony. Typically, there will be thousands of additional ants including one or more egg-laying queens hidden somewhere in a nest.

Continued on Page 2

Special points of interest:

- ✓ It's A Bird, It's A Plane, It's Flying Ants!
- ✓ Baits Can Control Pavement Ants
- ✓ National Moth Week!
- ✓ Phorid Flies
- ✓ How To Store Pesticides Safely
- ✓ Does Your School Have A Written IPM Policy?

Inside this issue:

USING BAITS TO CONTROL PAVEMENT ANTS CONTINUED:

Eliminating queens and other colony members within nests is often the key to effective ant control. You can do this using ant baits. Bait stations or ant stakes are easy to use and relatively safe for the environment. Pavement ants are attracted to both sweet baits and protein baits. The worker ants will take the bait back to the nest where the entire colony, including queens, may be killed. Remember that the results may not be evident for several weeks; the bait must be slow-acting so workers won't be killed before they get back to the nest. Here are a few tips on using ant baits:

- **Place baits near trails** and other locations where ants are likely to encounter them.
- **Place baits outdoors**; avoid indoor baiting as that may attract more ants into the building.
- **Place in protected areas** inaccessible to children and pets.
- **Offer small portions** of each bait to see which one is preferred before employing an extensive baiting program.
- **Follow up regularly** to make sure bait is working and place fresh bait as necessary.

Multiple strategies may be needed. Ant entry can be reduced by caulking around door thresholds, windows, and openings where utility pipes and wires enter buildings. Keeping all food in airtight containers will help eliminate food sources for ants.

For more tips on how to deal with pavement ants, click on the link to watch our Pavement Ants YouTube video .

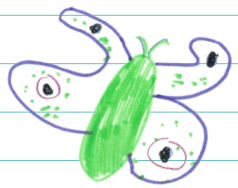
DOES YOUR SCHOOL HAVE A WRITTEN IPM POLICY?

As we begin to expand School IPM and partner with various green school programs, such as **BEST grants** and the **Green Ribbon Schools Award**, the Colorado Coalition for School IPM (CCSIPM), is in the process of writing a policy for school IPM. Do you already have one? Do you have some ideas for what you would like to see included in the template? To share your ideas or to get more information contact **Deb Young** or **Greg Hronich**.

CELEBRATE MOTHS!

National Moth Week is July 20-28

Citizen scientists around the world will be setting up white sheets and lights in backyards, woods and fields July 20-28 for the second annual National Moth Week, a global science project begun last year to encourage the public to observe and document one of nature's most diverse and misunderstood creatures. For more information about National Moth Week or to register an event, visit http://www.nationalmothweek.org.



STORING PESTICIDES SAFELY

Schools using IPM make efforts to avoid the use of pesticides by adequate pest proofing of facilities, good sanitation practices, selection of pest-resistant plant materials, and appropriate horticultural practices. They consider all available options, including non-chemical, biological and chemical management measures.

Contact your school facilities and operation department to find out what pesticides are allowable for use in your school. Look for pesticides stored in custodial closets, under sinks, or in storage sheds. Old pesticides such as DDT, lead arsenate, dieldrin, endrin, aldrin, toxaphene, 2,4,5-T, and chlordane have been banned for quite some time and are ILLEGAL to apply. These products must be properly disposed. The only viable means to do so is to turn these materials into a local hazardous waste collection site.

Be extremely careful in handling old pesticide containers. Many can fall apart just by picking them up. Wear proper chemical resistant gloves to handle these containers. If they are intact, you are encouraged to seal them in a another leak proof container such as a heavy mil plastic bag. Then make sure these are stored in a cool dry and secure place (preferably outside the living areas) until you can dispose of these materials properly.

All pesticide use, storage, handling, and disposal should be conducted in accordance with Colorado Statutes, Administration regulations, school District policies and procedures, and local ordinances.

PHORID FLIES (also known as brain-eating flies)

Fly problems are almost always a result of a sanitation problem. Different sanitation problems attract different types of flies. The first step is to identify the fly to pinpoint the sanitation problem. Then fix the sanitation problem to eliminate flies. Pesticides are rarely needed for flies.

Phorid or humpbacked flies are 1/8 inch long. They breed in, and feed on, moist decaying organic matter. They can build up quickly and very large numbers may appear in a short time.

In structures, these flies are found wherever moisture exists around plumbing and drains in bathroom and kitchen areas, garbage containers, garbage disposals, crawl space areas, wall voids, or basements where plumbing leaks provide wet areas supporting mold or fungal growth. Check areas where any fruits or vegetables are stored outside of refrigerators or coolers. Also inspect recycling bins, garbage cans, damp mop closets and used rag storage bins, and beneath refrigerators where dust and other organic deposits can be found in damp evaporation pans.


Phorid Flies

Fly trapping products that utilize a sticky surface may be effective in determining areas of infestation.

Occasionally, drainpipes will break under slab floors, and phorid flies can breed in immense numbers in the organic debris deposited through the break in the pipe. To determine if phorid flies are exiting through cracks in a floor or from a drain place pieces of masking tape over the crack or the drain opening.

Continued on page 4

schoolipm Colorado Coalition

The Colorado Coalition for School IPM is an effort by Colorado State University, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Colorado Department of Education, school districts, National Environmental Health Association and private pest control professionals.

For More Information About The Colorado Coalition For School IPM:

Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1177
Phone: 970-491-1377
Email: deborah.young@colostate.edu
http://coloradoipmcenter.agsci.colostate.edu

For All The Latest News Don't Forget To Check Out Our Website/Blog at:
www.ccsipm.wordpress.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION & IPM EXAMPLES CHECK OUT THE FLICKR PHOTO SETS —
EXAMPLES OF IPM PESTS & METHODS

PHORIOD FLIES CONTINUED:

Leave space between the strips of tape to allow air movement for the flies to follow. If flies are utilizing these openings to exit breeding areas, the adults will often become trapped on the tape. The only effective, long-lasting method of managing this fly is to eliminate all observed as well as potential breeding sites thorough sanitation and moisture control. It is crucial to regularly clean floor drains; several biologically based drain cleaners are available. Pesticides applied as space sprays will knock down the adults, but will not eliminate the infestation. Whenever using pesticides, always read the label carefully and follow directions.

MOBILE ACCESS TO PESTICIDES AND LABELS—MAPL IS NOW AVAILABLE!

A new web app by National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) lets the user search for pesticide products by name, site, pest, EPA Registration Number, registrant, or a combination of these. The user can also search for state specific information. The app also works on a desktop. To see a short video about how it works: http://bit.ly/12gvoyW .

To try the app visit: http://npic.orst.edu/mapl

npic