Ants

Most ant species are highly developed social insects that live in permanent nests, which depending on the species, may be in the soil, in timber, under pavers, in wall cavities or roof voids.

Ants may travel large distances in search of food. Even the cleanest of homes can provide a ready food source for ants which once found can invade in large numbers, such that professional help is required.

Some Ants may inflict severe bites but most are a nuisance pest when they infest homes and outdoor areas in large numbers.

Mosquitos

There are over 150 species of mosquitoes in the United States. Some are able to fully develop from eggs in less than a week. Most take 10-14 day to reach maturity but what is important is they grow rapidly. Mosquitoes need water and high levels of moisture to sustain themselves. Although female mosquitoes may live for up to a year, most die in the season they were born. Mosquito populations are able to continue from year to year because one stage is able to overwinter and start their cycle again the next spring. It may en the adult, the pupa, the larva or the egg which is needed. Each species has different winter survivors. Some adult females don't need a blood meal to begin to reproduce. In general, male mosquitoes live a short time. Most mosquitoes lay several hundred eggs and are able to generate huge populations in a short period of time. Although standing water is the prime location for them to reproduce, there are many locations around the home that afford fertile egg laying areas. Such places include water in the bottom of planters, drainage streams, street sewers which don't drain completely, rain barrels, buckets of water, swimming pools, drain lines from rain gutters, old tires, mulch around the home, shrubs, trees, firewood, slow moving water, small decorative ponds for pet fish, bird baths, water accumulating around windows or doors, water accumulating from an automatic sprinkler system, pet water dishes, leaks around water pickets and just about anywhere water is used or is able to accumulate during the warm summer months anywhere in the country. Mosquitoes need water to reproduce. They will readily move to moist, shady areas under decks, around pools, in garages, in dense shrubbery or flowers, any kind of ivy, holes or nooks of trees, water in a clogged rain gutter or simply the water on a leaf of shrubs which are being watered during the hot summer months.

Fleas

If summer is here so are the fleas! And if its winter and you have them – you're not alone. The flea cycle can occur almost anywhere. It will occur on the animal, I the yard, in a carpet, in a litter box, in a bed, in a garage, in a basement, in a crawl space, in an attic, in a doghouse, etc. The rule is simple; a place where a warm blooded animal spends time can become a flea infested site.

It is important to understand that fleas will persist if you only address one or two locations where they are breeding. Don't think that treating the pet will keep your home or yard from getting fleas.

Understand the benefit of early treatment. This is the key to enjoying a flea free summer.

Spiders

There are two types of spiders found around the home: ground dwellers and web makers. Spiders which thrive on the ground are usually much stronger than their web building cousins. These brutes are aggressive, usually nocturnal, great hunters and rely on their strong grip and bite. They stalk food at night and will feed on just about anything which moves. Some species may have toxins to assist in their hunting. When prey is identified, they will usually stalk within pouncing distance, crouch, leap, rip, shred, bite, grab and kill – all within a few moments. If a spider is able to establish a web in your home and is able to feed itself on a regular basis, it is a sure sign that perimeter pest control needs to be done.

Bed Bugs

Bed Bugs are blood-suckers usually found in motels, hostels or boarding houses where travelers stay overnight. Bed bugs are found in buildings used to store second-hand furniture or clothing.

How do Bed Bugs get into bed?
Bed bugs are transported with luggage, clothing and other articles, but not on the person. It is not possible to know if someone is a 'bed bug carrier'. Bedbugs" can be carried on persons clothing to get from one place to another.

Bed Bugs do bite ... at night. Next morning you may see dots of blood in a line on the bed linen. Look for dried blood deposits around cracks in the bed, flooring, bedside furniture and mattress.

Flies

Since the beginning of time, flies have been a nuisance to man. They have ruined foodstuff, transmitted disease and taken our blood. Flies are the fourth largest order of insects on the earth and have over 100,000 species.

We have divided them into three sections. The first section is several small flies including fruit, phorid, moth or drain, fungus and cheese skippers. The second section is biting flies such as horse, deer and stable files. The third section is common household species such as house, blow and cluster flies.

Termites

Subterranean Termites are the most common species of termites throughout the mainland of the United States. Termites are important in nature because they recycle cellulose or wood. Termites turn dead trees quickly and efficiently into food and nutrients which in turn feed many organisms. To a termite, any structure with wood represents food. Once inside your structure, they will feed undetected in sill plates, studs, floor joists or any cellulose material they can access. This food will lure a continuous flow of worker termites to your structure. Proper treatment to stop this infestation includes creating a chemical

barrier in the soil. In some cases treating the wood will help. Now bait stations are being set out as well. All these tools can help in both protecting, preventing and controlling termites before they establish themselves in your structure and start doing damage.

Roaches

Roaches are every homeowner nightmare if given the opportunity; Roaches will become a permanent family member! There are different ways of dealing with this pest, but two qualities you need are 1) patience 2) persistence

Patience is needed because you cannot spray one time and expect to never see another roach. Egg cases will hatch and follow-up treatments are necessary.

Persistence is needed when dealing with roaches because of biology. Roaches develop rapidly and studies confirm they will develop faster when their population is under stress. This is nature's way of preserving the species. A treatment schedule must be made and then strictly adhered to when you decide to clean out a roach infestation.

Rats

Rats will move into any structure man builds. We have both Roof Rats and Norway Rats in America. Roof Rats are excellent climbers and prefer to live in attics or cabinets. They can scale most surfaces and may access your property by climbing up brick, stucco or wood siding. Once on the roof, they will find any small route of entry. This includes vents to bathrooms, gable vents, spaces around soffits, exhaust pipe holes, spaces between facia boards and roofs and just about any vulnerable spot. If none exists, they will chew a hole. Norway Rats prefer to nest in the ground. They dig burrows around railroad ties, gardens, trees, shrubs and against foundations. These burrows will lead into crawl spaces and through cracks around pipes and slabs. Once inside your property, they prefer nest low in kitchens and bathrooms. Both species have droppings about the size of a black or red bean. The Norway Rat droppings have smooth round ends but the Roof Rat dropping has pointed ends. Generally speaking, these droppings will get larger as the rodent grows bigger. As with mice, rats leave their droppings where they travel. These locations will be where rodent control programs need to be implemented.

Crickets

This is about camel back crickets or cave crickets. Like many insects, they can become a pest around the home. Most pests want to live where people live, but these crickets are different. They love dark, damp, cave-like settings where they can nest. These environments provide both water and food. Cave crickets can live in a home for long periods of time without residents knowing. As their population increases, some will get into living areas. Camel back crickets appear throughout most of the United States. They will move into areas around the home taking up residence under porches and sheds. They love moisture and darkness. Such areas produce fungus and mold – both of which can feed this species of cricket. In addition to mold and fungus, camel back crickets will feed on fabric. This becomes a problem in the home since migrating crickets can cause substantial damage if left unchecked.

Once crickets are established around the home, the will readily move inside for shelter from the hot summer heat. Crawl spaces and basements provide excellent nest sighs. If you are finding some in your basement, treat early. It is easier to get control of this cricket before it is established. If you have a home with a crawl space, it is important that you check periodically. Such inspections may reveal pest problems. IF you find crickets during any inspection, try to treat it as soon as possible. Since camel back crickets reproduce quickly, it is wise to get rid of them before populations swell.