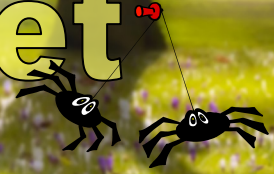


The Spinneret

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Spring 2016



WOW is it spring already!? Feels like I just got finished with Thanksgiving and dragging everything out of mothballs for the holidays and here we are cramming the Christmas ornaments into the attic. I did cheat a little by escaping for a week for a motor cycle ride to Key West but I still have a few days of snowboarding ahead. Soon, the motorcycle will be calling again. I wonder if it's too early to get out the barbecue? Hmmm... -Ed.

Carpet beetles:

Now that the holidays and most of the winter weather are behind us its time to pack away our winter coats and gloves.

Before you seal those items away its important to protect them.

Anything made of wool or fur is vulnerable to damage by carpet beetles.

Carpet beetles are very common through out the state.

The local variety is called the Varied carpet beetle because of its speckled appearance.

The speckles can range from cream to brown and grey to black.

Adult beetles are shaped like ladybugs but are only about one fifth of their size. They are strong fliers and can be found outdoors in early spring feeding on pollen. Indoors they can often be found in window sills where they are attracted to light.

In the wild they are one of natures janitors. Occasionally referred to as hide beetles, they lay their eggs in bird nests and animal dens where the young feed on hair, feathers, insect carcasses and any other protein they can get into.

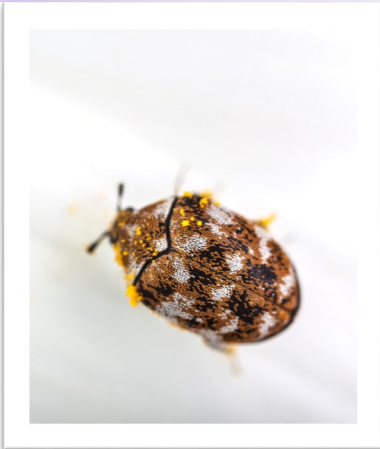
In your home they can damage wool suits, fur coats, gloves, carpets and other natural fibers. Fortunately, cotton and synthetic fibers are immune to attack.

They are the bane of museums, hunters and insect collectors with mounted specimens where they do irreparable damage to collections.

Adults lay eggs in early spring that hatch into wooly caterpillars. These caterpillars have a distinctive cigar shape with bands of pigment and hair that form brown and white bands that run from side to side.

These hairs aren't just for decoration. They are very strong

Continued...



Adult Carpet Beetle

Mosquitoes:

Mosquitoes have been the single greatest source of human death and misery in all human history.

In fact it is believed that more than half of all humans that have ever lived have been killed by mosquito born malaria alone.

Global travel has done more to spread this pest and the diseases it carries than any environmental factor.

Last year the big fear was people bringing ebola virus to the western hemisphere.

This year it was discovered that Zika virus had reached the southern U.S. and this virus is spread by mosquitoes.

According to the Center for Disease Control, Zika virus was first identified in 1947 in macaque monkeys in Uganda.

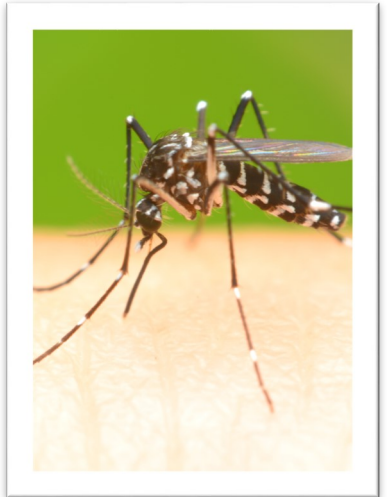
Agencies like the CDC and World health Organization have been tracking Zika for decades but were not aware of its dangers because it had never spread to a large enough population to raise any concern. In the average person it presents as a mild cold and most people suffer no side effects. Once you have had it you have immunity.

It wasn't until last fall that they were able to tie the virus to a significant increase in cases of microcephaly in infants in south America.

For most of us the virus will be uncomfortable but not lethal. The people who appear to be at greatest risk right now are women of childbearing age that have never had the virus. Without immunity if they become infected while they are pregnant they risk having children with debilitating birth defects.

Now it should be noted that I'm not a doctor. For the most up to date information about Zika you should go to the CDC website located at: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/>

Continued...



Aedes mosquito

Carpet Beetles:

...continued

and sharp and evolved to protect them from parasitic wasps. When attacked they curl up to protect the less hairy underbelly.

If a person is sensitive or is exposed to high concentrations of these hairs they can have an adverse or allergic reaction.

Pet owners are at a higher risk of infestation because pet hair can accumulate in air ducts and inaccessible areas. Regular duct cleaning along with vacuuming under furniture, appliances, and along baseboards can help reduce eggs and food for the insect.

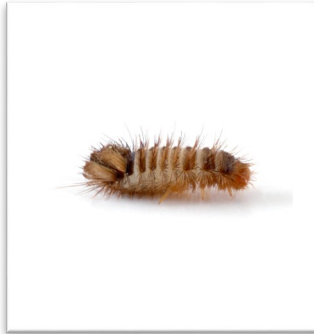
Other factors include animal activity in your home. A dead bird or rodent can support several generations of beetles. So, animal proofing your home will go a long way toward preventing infestation.

If you have mounted animal trophies, wool carpet, drapes or furniture it is particularly important to animal proof and vacuum floors and ducts.

Protecting your clothing is a bit easier.

Dry cleaning kills all stages of this insect. Storing garments in a sealed trunk, closet or garment bag with mothballs or odorless products like Nuvan pest strips will kill any insects that get in with them.

Products like Nuvan or moth balls work by releasing vapors that kill the insect so it is important that the closet / trunk / etc. be as air tight as possible. ■



Carpet beetle larva
André Karwath CC BY-SA 2.5

Mosquitoes:

...continued

This article isn't about Zika virus. I only mention it to raise your awareness about the need to control mosquitoes on your own property.

Sometimes you have no control over the mosquitoes that come onto your property. But even if they are coming from adjacent lots there is still plenty you can do to help keep them down.



Mosquito larvae

First and foremost, mosquitoes need water to breed and can mature in as few as four days under the right conditions. But they don't need very much. Some are able to survive on the water trapped in a bottle cap. Whenever possible, eliminate standing water.

- Fill in areas on your property that hold water.
- Get rid of unnecessary clutter. The side of the garage and under the deck are the two most common areas for this to accumulate.
- Make sure gutters and downspouts are cleaned and in good working order. If your gutter is installed with a slight slope away from the downspout it may hold water for weeks.
- Avoid using plastic sheeting as a substitute for landscape fabric in planting beds and under decks. It doesn't allow water to pass through it.
- If you have a water feature that includes a bird bath or standing water, consider adding some mosquito eating fish, or treating with "mosquito dunks" (blocks containing an inert bacterium that kills mosquito larvae). Adding an aerator / sprinkler can keep the water surface disturbed enough to drown mosquito larvae.
- If your driveway has a culvert consider treating it with "mosquito dunks" in the spring and late summer.

Second, protect your home.

Any door or window that might be left open should be fitted with intact, secure screens.

Third, when mosquitoes are active, protect yourself.

Mosquitoes can carry a lot more than Zika virus. Locally, West Nile virus comes to mind.

Long sleeved shirts and long pants can physically discourage bites. There are even some brands of outdoor wear that have permethrin impregnated in the fabric that will repel or kill mosquitoes that attempt to drill through it.

Don't forget the "DEET". To date it is the single most effective mosquito repellent on the market.

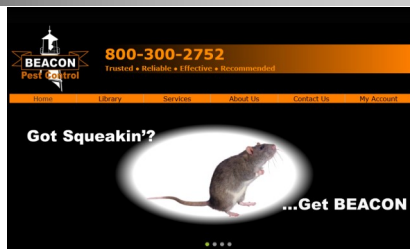
As a last option, have your property treated. This will not work for some properties where persistent winds carry large numbers of mosquitoes in, but for calmer properties it can dramatically reduce adult mosquito populations. ■

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peruse the Library.



Service Targets:



Current applications are focused on ants and sow bugs. Ground level applications are the principal preventive treatment being made at this time.

Please, let us know promptly if you discover ant activity in your home as it is important to get bait in place early for the best control.



Vegetation treatments for weeds are being performed for those on our "Bare Ground" program. Please allow temperatures to rise into the high 50's before expecting any significant die-off.

We do guaranty the performance of our services.

If you have questions regarding any of our services please call promptly. ■