

Spring Insect Pests are Making a Presence

Now that spring has sprung, many insect pests are becoming visible. Two common pests that are drawing interests are termites and ants. There is quite a bit of confusion about determining which is present. Both termites and ants are able to swarm and may have wings during part of their lives. Since these insects are close to the same size, people often misidentify flying ants as termites. Since flying ants do not attack wooden structures like termites, it is helpful to be able to tell the difference.

Fortunately, there are several differences that can easily distinguish between the two. For example, ants have a thin waist; the waist of a termite is thick. Also, ants' antennae are elbowed, while termites are straight and look like beads stacked on one another. Thirdly, termites have two pairs of wings that are of equal length. Ants also have two pairs of wings, but theirs are of unequal length. Homeowners who find signs of termite activity should shop for a reputable pest control firm.

Another problem pest that is on our minds is bagworms. Timing is critical in controlling bagworms. Though handpicking is effective through much of the year, often it is impractical because of the sheer numbers of bagworms. But if you only see a few bags, now would be a good time to pick them off and destroy them.

New bagworms will likely hatch and leave the mother's bag in May, but spraying is not usually recommended until some time in June. Spraying now will be ineffective. The bagworms are too well protected inside their mother's bag. Closer to hatch, watch for an article on when and what to spray.

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