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CONQUISTADOR

PEST & TERMITE, INC.



December '08-January '09

The Winter Serenade of the Chirping Cricket

There are not many places more beautiful to live this time of year than Tucson. Cooler days and perfect evenings make us want to sit outside and enjoy the cool, crisp air. The stars are bright, and the subtle sound of chirping crickets adds to the atmosphere. What a perfect picture....While crickets can add to the beauty of our clear winter evenings, when the evening closes and it's time for the Sandman to come, that same pleasant cricket can suddenly become a nuisance.

We all know that, in the insect world, the cricket is relatively harmless to us humans. They have no venomous sting or bite—but that chirping can be persistent beyond our endurance. Crickets nest anywhere the environment will support their lifestyle. Outside, they live under plants and pots, in the pool equipment, in sheds, and under a home's stucco. If not controlled they can multiply very quickly, making controlling them more difficult and costly. They normally give themselves away by leaving piles of droppings where their nest is located.

A simple maintenance program that addresses general pests will easily keep them under control. The synthetic pyrethroids that we use today are very effective. In fact, one of the best improvements to the pest control industry over the past 15 years has been the creation of these new materials. They require much smaller amounts of the active ingredient, yet they achieve better results. Safer for all of us, but more deadly for the pests!

Thank you again your continued business. I wish everyone a great holiday season, and may 2009 be a prosperous New Year!

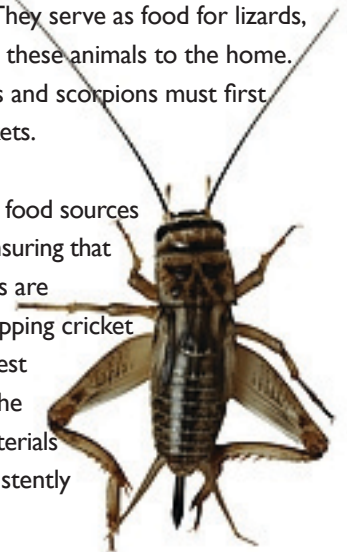
Ken Fredrick

Critter Corner

Crickets are becoming a tremendous problem in Pima County this year because of all the rain we received this monsoon season. Wet weather favors these insects, which congregate in garages, crawlspaces and yards, making noise into the night. The sound that crickets make is actually created when male crickets rub their wings against each other. Females and immature (wingless) individuals do not make any noise at all. The species most commonly infesting homes is the familiar tan Indian House Cricket. They collect in small cricket communities not unlike the "nests" of cockroaches, to whom they are related. Their droppings are dry and granular and may be mistaken for termite droppings to the untrained eye.

Indian House Crickets are versatile and may feed on dog food, fruit, nuts, cereal, glue, paper, or even dead insects. They like cracks, crevices and clutter, and they can be found in cracks in the pavement, meter boxes, attics or any place in between. Once they establish themselves in a home, they can build large populations fairly quickly. They serve as food for lizards, spiders and scorpions, attracting these animals to the home. Any control program for spiders and scorpions must first concentrate on eliminating crickets.

Controlling moisture, clutter and food sources are key to eliminating crickets. Ensuring that doors seal tightly and that cracks are repaired is also important in stopping cricket infestations. Your professional pest control technician is trained in the habits of crickets and has the materials necessary to get rid of this persistently annoying pest.



WANTED

YOUR WEED PROBLEM

Now is the best time to begin pre-emergent spraying for summer weeds, since it is not effective once a seedling has fully sprouted. Ask your Conquistador technician about pre-emergent spraying.

Additionally, with Conquistador Pest & Termite's **CONQUER ALL** program, you get with each visit:

Weed maintenance

Pest control

Termite inspection of house exterior

Termite infestation treatment, as needed

In addition:

Pre-emergent applied in January and July

Annual interior inspection

A warranty on all of our work

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