

# ADVANCE

SUMMER 2016

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## *Focus on Summer Pest Control*

ADDRESSING OUR CUSTOMERS' TERMITE, INSECT, RODENT AND WILDLIFE CONTROL NEEDS SINCE 1985.



*Spiders may be a necessary part of nature, but they don't need to be a part of your home!*

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### ***DID YOU KNOW?***

*Humans are easily outweighed by insects: their biomass is about 29 times greater. We are even outweighed by ants! Ants alone make up 15% to 20% of the entire land-dwelling animal biomass (which includes insects) of our planet. For every one of us, about 200 million insects exist!*

***If you discover termites in your home or business, don't panic!  
It takes 60,000 termites 6 weeks to eat 6" of a 2' x 4'.***

### **Mosquito Prevention 101**

**Mosquitoes require an aquatic habitat for their early stages of development. By simply removing water resources in which mosquitoes may develop, you can help keep mosquitoes at bay near your home this summer:**

- ◇ Don't over water your yard/garden. Standing water becomes a source for mosquito eggs.
- ◇ Empty and refill bird baths at least once weekly.
- ◇ Remove standing water from plant saucers.
- ◇ Change pet dish water once weekly.
- ◇ Change water in kiddie pools and fountains at least once weekly.
- ◇ Make sure trash can lids are on tight so no water gets inside. Upside-down lids can also serve as water reservoirs.
- ◇ Clean gutters on house and make sure water is flowing properly away from house.
- ◇ Fill in mud puddles
- ◇ Grade yard so water moves away from house and yard.
- ◇ Check tree stumps for standing water.
- ◇ Make sure tire swings and old tires are emptied of standing water and keep swimming pools drained or covered during off months and treated properly during the summer season.
- ◇ Add bubblers or fountains to lakes or ponds to keep the surface constantly rippling.



## SPOTLIGHT ON SUMMER PESTS

### The Cicada Killer!

When the weather is warm, we spend more time outdoors. In late July or early August, the cicadas will have emerged. You hear the males calling to females every summer evening; that low humming, rhythmic buzzing can be quite annoying or can signify summer's dog days coming to an end. What you don't hear during the day is the cicada's biggest predator, the cicada killer. But your children see them and are frightened by these huge black and yellow hornets buzzing around mounds of sandy dirt in the front yard of your suburban home. Cicada killers, or giant ground hornets, are among the largest wasps in the U. S. (up to 1.5 inches in length). They are conspicuous insects, since the males are territorial and will buff or grapple with intruders, including other males.

The female cicada killer digs up to 4-foot long burrows in the ground; these burrows have several pockets. She then busies herself gathering and provisioning the cells with cicadas. To dig her burrow, the fertilized female uses her front legs to rake the soil, pushing it out behind her with her hind legs, resulting in the large dirt mounds you see peppering your otherwise well-manicured lawn. One to four cicadas per cell are deposited, depending on the size of the cicada. Cicada killers are generally considered beneficial insects since they destroy the plant-feeding cicadas.

Male cicada killers have no stingers, but can be quite territorial and aggressive and are often the insect you encounter in your yard. To be stung by a female, one would almost have to place a finger down into the burrow, but stings are very rare. If young children are present in the breeding areas, one may want to discourage the presence of cicada killers. You can do this by reducing or eliminating the breeding area, which usually consists of exposed, sandy soil. These areas can be mulched or covered with grass. Call our office today to schedule treatment of involved areas.



**RELAX!  
IT'S SUMMER!**



**DID YOU KNOW** Advance now provides lawn care services? Call **EARLY (620.662.3616)** to schedule your lawn care service for next spring. We offer several service options and early payment discounts! (Service not available in all areas.)



**T**his newsletter is intended to bring you information to make your life easier and more enjoyable. Please pass this Newsletter along to friends and relatives who might need our services.

**I**f you have questions or comments, please call our office [620.662.3616 or 800.536.3614] or e-mail us at [advance@advancepest.com](mailto:advance@advancepest.com).

We'd love to hear from you, but please be kind; we're very sensitive!

**Are turf bugs invading your home?**  
**THRIPS** live in flowers, on leaves, fruit, bark, in debris, decayed vegetation, and in the soil; they originate and reproduce in the turf and migrate into homes.  
**SPRINGTAILS** are found under leaves, boards, stones, on moist soil, in humus or on moss. They originate and reproduce in turf and migrate into homes.