



# ADVANCE

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SUMMER 2018



## Focus on Summer Pest Control

ADDRESSING OUR CUSTOMERS' TERMITE AND PEST CONTROL CONCERNS SINCE 1985.

### 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.



### HOW TO TAKE THE STING OUT OF SUMMER

- ◇ Wear shoes, especially in grassy areas.
- ◇ Overseed grassy areas to get better coverage, as this will deter ground-nesting insects.
- ◇ DO NOT swat at a stinging insect as it increases the likelihood of an aggressive reaction.
- ◇ Avoid wearing sweet smelling perfumes.
- ◇ Do not attempt to remove a nest on your own. If you have an infestation, call our office for qualified help.
- ◇ Remove garbage frequently and keep trash cans covered.
- ◇ Ensure all doors and windows have screens in good condition.
- ◇ See immediate medical attention if stung, as reactions can be severe.
- ◇



## REAL ESTATE INSPECTIONS



For sellers and buyers, a home inspection is the end of a simple sale process or the beginning of a new negotiation. Termite inspections are often part of the process. There have lately been concerns about this process.

In Kansas, a home inspector should not comment in his/her reports on pest control matters, including termites, unless the inspector has a pest control license. Even then, a home inspector can only comment on matters related to the license he or she holds. For example, a home inspector who has a 7e license (structural pest) cannot comment on wood-destroying insects unless he also has a 7a (wood-destroying) license if the inspector intends to include that information in the home inspection report.

Kansas does not license home inspectors, as licensing was repealed by the Kansas Legislature in 2013. So new home inspectors enter the market, they may be unaware they are not to comment on pest control matters. This has become an increasing problem as some home inspectors are putting pest control assessments in reports, despite not have the proper, or any, pest control license(s). Kansas law is clear that pest control assessments should only be done by those who are properly licensed in categories for which the assessment is being conducted.

This is a best practice guideline that protects both sellers and buyers and limits future issues that might arise and lead to litigation involving any of the parties involved in the sale, including realtors.

Be on the lookout for this practice by home inspectors and visit with realtors to ensure they are only allowing pest control assessments to be provided by licensed pest management professionals. Interested parties may want to contact the Kansas Pest Control Association which address any concerns a buyer, seller or realtor might have regarding this issue. 785.271.9220 or [kansaspest@yahoo.com](mailto:kansaspest@yahoo.com).

### 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 property during the summer season.**
- ◇ **Add bubblers or fountains to lakes or ponds to keep the surface constantly rippling.**



**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 at 662.3616 or 800.536.3614 or e-mail us at [advance@advancepest.com](mailto:advance@advancepest.com).

**W**e sincerely appreciate your business!

**The only causes of regret are laziness,  
outbursts of temper, hurting others,  
prejudice, jealousy and envy. -  
Germaine Greer**