

<http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/entomology/extension/extension.htm>

Kansas Insect Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, and Extension Personnel

Department of Entomology
239 West Waters Hall
K-State Research and Extension
Manhattan, KS 66506-4027

Tel: 785-532-5891
Fax: 785-532-6258



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Cool Weather Signals Invasion:

Fall is the time to watch out for household invaders. Crickets, boxelder bugs, millipedes, and many other insects invade homes this time of year seeking shelter for the winter. Many of these pests are more of a nuisance than a threat to health or property, but that is not much consolation for those whose homes are invaded by hundreds or thousands of unwanted, multi-legged guests.

The first line of defense against these pests is to limit access to the home by reducing the points of entry. Make sure screens are in place and free of holes. Check that the caulk is in good condition around windows, doors and foundation walls. Then remove as much harborage form around the foundation of the home as practical. While some foliage and mulch around the home is maybe needed for curb appeal, avoid over grown shrubs and excessive amounts of clutter.

Insecticides can sometimes be useful in reducing these migrating pests. Treating the foundation and some of the area around the home can often greatly reduce the numbers of pests that can enter the home. Once in the home first decide if the problem can be easily controlled by hand-picking or vacuuming to remove individuals. This may be all that is needed, if populations are minimal. Another option that can sometimes be useful is to use glue boards to trap the insects as they wander about the home. However, if populations are high or persistent, the use of an insecticide may be justified. Aerosol sprays may be use for quick knockdown, but their effects are short lived. For some pests residual sprays can be used to treat baseboards, cracks, crevices and other hiding places. Because there are hundreds of products on the market, it is best to visit a local supplier of lawn or home insecticides and look for a product labeled for the pest and the location you want to treat.

For more information on specific pests check the following publications or newsletter articles:

<<http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/entml2/mf2580.pdf>> Boxelder and Red-shouldered bugs

<<http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/entml2/ep121.pdf>> Centipedes and Millipedes

<<http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/entml2/ep120.pdf>> Pillbugs and Sowbugs

Multi-colored

<http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/entomology/extension/KIN/KIN_2004/kin-30/04ksnew.30.htm#Asian_Lady_Beetle> Asian Lady Beetles

<<http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/entml2/ep125.pdf>> Spiders

<<http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/entml2/MF749.PDF>> Crickets (Since our Cricket pub. is out of date, check this <<http://citybugs.tamu.edu/FastSheets/Ent-1008.html>> Texas A&M web page for more up-to-date treatment information)

Phil Sloderbeck, Jeff Whitworth, and Bobby Brown

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Sincerely,

Phil Sloderbeck
Southwest Research and Extension Center
Extension Specialist
Entomology - Garden City, KS

Jeff Whitworth
Entomology (Crops)

Bobby Brown
Entomology Diagnostician