



# Haggerty Pest Service

Dedicated to Safety, Service & Satisfaction

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## Bug Bytes Newsletter

# Ants: Home Invaders



Homeowners have more problems with ants than any other pest, making ants the **#1 pest problem** in the U.S. The problem is so bad that an *unprotected* home can be expected to have ant problems at least occasionally. For some homes, ant problems are a continual battle.

This is because ants are continually searching for food, water, and places for their nests. Ant colonies are constantly sending out scouts into homes to find these resources. These scouts usually go

unnoticed by humans until the scouts find food or something else they are looking for, and then hordes of ants start coming in.

Ant colonies start to come alive and pulsate with activity during the spring. Nature provides an abundance of food in the spring, and each queen ant starts to lay more and more eggs every day. To make matters worse, most of our most serious ant pest species have many egg-laying queens in each colony, so these colonies can grow and become more of a menace with each passing week.

You can't control these huge monster colonies by killing only the ants you see—

there are just too many ants that you don't see. *Like an iceberg, where the vast majority of the ice is hidden from view, the ants we see feeding are just a small number compared to the number hidden in the nests.*

Our regular and professional control eliminates ant problems and prevents new ant problems from arising. We are the *local ant experts*—please spread the word and let other people know we can help them!

### Pest Prevention Tip of the Month

All grass and weeds are a favorite place for rodents, insects, and other pests to hide and breed. Eventually some of these pests will find their way indoors. Keep grassy areas trimmed low, especially near your foundation.

## Pests Are Making A Come Back!

Pests come back every year as the weather warms. That's predictable. But we are never sure which will be the worst pest problems this year.

Many pests are a problem every year, and we even know about when they will start invading homes. Other pests may not be a problem for several years, *and then all of a sudden*, because of an unusual weather pattern or a natural cycle, they are a major problem again. Still other pests are new to the area and gradually spreading. These non-native pests often become some of our most serious pests.

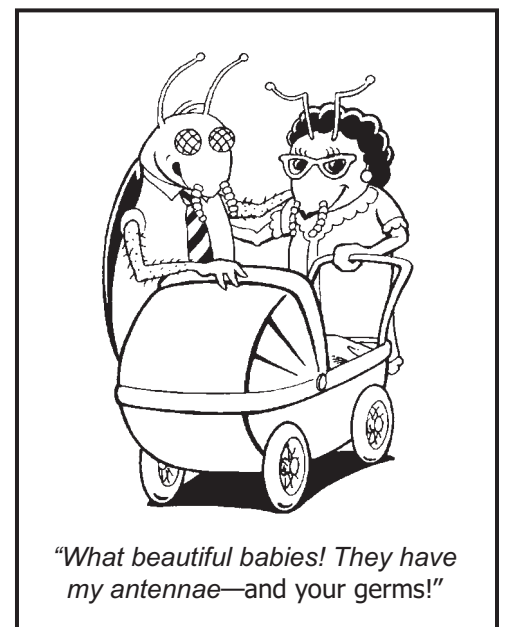
Because there are so many kinds of pests, they will always be causing problems. After all, there are well over a *million species of named insects*, and scientists estimate there are *10 million more* insect species waiting to be

discovered and named.

It should come as no surprise that a typical yard around a home harbors *several thousand* different species of bugs. Some of these are very good at finding their way indoors, either by crawling through cracks, or by flying in. A good many of our indoor pest problems are a result of these outdoor pests finding their way indoors.



That's why our **perimeter treatments** are so important. By professionally treating around the outside of your foundation and in other key areas, we can stop many unwanted pests before they ever have a chance to enter your home. Our perimeter treatments are just one of the important tools we use to enable you to enjoy the benefits of a more *pest-free* life!



"What beautiful babies! They have my antennae—and your germs!"

## Your Questions Answered

**Q** Who is most likely to get head lice?

**A** Head lice are equal opportunists—they will attack you regardless of whether your hair is dirty or clean, short or long, or whether you are rich, poor, young, or old.



Children contract head lice more often than adults simply because their play often involves direct head-to-head contact, and they share personal items like combs, brushes, and coats.

NOTE: Head lice is an age-old problem. Even in 16th Century Germany, a document on proper manners advised, "Never scratch your head, or fish out lice when you are having a meal." Recorded by a predecessor of Miss Manners?

## Home Has One Million Africanized "Killer" Bees

Two colonies of Africanized "killer" honey bees were removed from the walls of a Houston home, totaling over one million bees.

The huge hives had been there 10 to 20 years, and the combs measured an amazing 12 feet tall and 3 feet thick in places. It took the pest management hero more than 8 hours to remove them, and he sustained over 40 stings.

Africanized honey bees have a heightened defensive behavior, making them more dangerous than our European honey bees. It takes much less of a disturbance to cause them to attack, they attack in much larger numbers, they pursue the unlucky intruder much further, and they keep attacking for a longer period.

Africanized honey bees are unfortunately spreading in warmer areas of the country. These bees are now established in Texas, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, southern California, and Florida. They gradually out-compete our more "gentle" European honey bees.



## World's Largest Bee Rediscovered

Wallace's giant bee, first discovered in 1859 on three remote islands in Indonesia, has been a particularly elusive bee. Long thought extinct, it was not seen again until 1984, 125 years later. Now for the first time a film crew has filmed it alive in the wild.



Size of a Honey Bee

At 1.5 inches long, and with a wingspan of 2.5 inches, Wallace's giant bee dwarfs other bees. It has a distinctive sound made by its wings, a "deep, slow thrum that you could almost feel as well as hear."

Wallace's is a solitary bee with the unusual habit of living in termite nests. We don't know what its sting is like because no one has been stung by one, so far. It fortunately appears not to be aggressive.

## Formosan Termites Discovered in California

Everyone believed that the invasive Formosan subterranean termite had been eliminated in California. Discovered near San Diego in 1992, due to aggressive control efforts it was last seen there in 1998. Now a new infestation has been discovered less than half a mile from the original discovery.

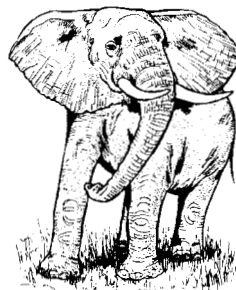


A "robust" colony was found in the structure of a home after the homeowner reported to a termite company that they had a cloud of winged insects swarming in their yard at twilight. It turned out these were mature Formosan termites seeking mates, ready to fly off and start new colonies. The colony appears to be 6 to 8 years old.

The termites had hollowed out large areas of structural wood, always staying just beneath the exterior paint, keeping themselves unnoticed by the homeowner.

It is believed these termites were unknowingly originally brought to California by a family who lived there but visited Hawaii often and brought back plants and other items. Formosan termites invaded Hawaii in the 1800's, and are currently spreading across the Gulf, from Texas to Florida, and up to North Carolina.

## Ants Are Mightier than Elephants



Here's a case where tiny insects change the behavior of animals about a billion times more massive than they. Researchers have discovered that African elephants won't eat foliage of trees that have ants on them—they will even avoid their favorite tree species. Elephants avoid any trees with ants because the angry ants crawl up inside the elephant's sensitive trunks and sting them.

The ants have no effect on tree-feeding giraffes, because these animals use their long tongues to swipe the ants away from their short snouts.