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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Carpenter Bees

Carpenter Bees are swarming around buildings in the area. I have had them flying around for several days now and they are continuing to do damage to the unprotected wood in sheds, barns and other buildings. Over time they can do significant damage as they bore into the bottom side of trusses, rafters, and other parts of you buildings.

There is a fact sheet available from Ohio State that Dr. Susan Jones with the Department of Entomology has put together to address these problem bees. The fact sheet can be found online at http://entomology.osu.edu/schoolipm/IPMfiles/Factsheets/carpenter_bees.pdf or you stop by your local OSU Extension office to pick up a copy. The following is a small portion of what is listed in the factsheet:

Integrated Pest Management

When dealing with carpenter bees, it is preferable to locate tunnel entrances during the daytime, but treat after dark on a cool evening when carpenter bees are less active. Wear protective clothing to avoid any stings during treatment. Prevention Keep all exposed wood surfaces well painted with a polyurethane or oil-base paint to deter attack by carpenter bees. Periodically inspect painted surfaces, because the coatings will begin to deteriorate due to weathering, leaving exposed wood that the bees then can easily attack. Wood stains will not prevent damage. Consider using aluminum, asbestos, asphalt, vinyl siding, and similar non-wood materials that are not damaged by carpenter bees. Seal existing gallery entrance holes to discourage carpenter bees that are looking for potential nesting sites.

Mechanical Measures

A non-insecticidal management approach is to deny carpenter bees access to their galleries by sealing each entrance hole. Thoroughly plug the hole with caulking compound, wood putty, or a wooden dowel affixed with wood glue. If possible, also fill the entire gallery system with a sealant. Carpenter bee galleries are a critical resource, since the bees spend much of their time inside a gallery, and they require its protective conditions to survive the winter. Bees that are trapped inside a caulked gallery typically will not chew out due to behavioral constraints. This barrier approach has promise for reducing future carpenter bee infestations. In new nests, the single female often can be swatted and killed, or she can be captured and crushed or otherwise destroyed. Larvae and pupae can be killed by inserting a sturdy wire into the entrance hole and probing into the gallery as deeply as possible.

There are a number of labeled pesticides that can be used as well. More details are in the factsheet. There are also a number of homemade plans for building Carpenter Bee Traps online if you do a simple search. Some garden centers have them for sale, too.



Update on Asian Longhorn Beetle

Well it has now been almost 5 years since the discovery of Asian Longhorn Beetles in the Bethel area. This has been an ordeal to put it mildly, but for those in the area it has been an unfortunate situation to deal with. The process of stopping the spread of this destructive insect has been painful and it continues. This is an update on what has taken place, plus hopefully information that will help inform everyone about the measures that need to be taken to prevent the spread of ALB to other locations. This is a news release from OSU Extension's Amy Stone.

Tree removals are ongoing. Property owners are asked to communicate any concerns with the contractor in advance of tree removal work being conducted. Ground and tree-climbing survey crews continue to conduct delimiting surveys, inspecting all host trees throughout the regulated areas in Clermont County. Staff survey for the presence of ALB by examining individual host trees for signs of beetle damage. The following numbers pertain to the tree removals and surveys currently being conducted:

1,781,195 Number of tree surveys conducted as of 4/16/16 (since surveys began on 7/1/11)
17,781 Number of ALB infested trees confirmed as of 4/16/16 (since detection on 6/17/11)
16,808 Number of ALB infested trees removed as of 4/16/16 (removals started on 11/14/11)
65,621 Number of ALB high risk host trees removed as of 4/16/16 (removals started on 5/1/13)
36,130 Number of ALB high risk host tree treatments conducted since 2013
61 Square-miles under regulation; see "Regulated Area" map:
http://agri.ohio.gov/topnews/asianbeetle/docs/ALB_ohio_quarantine_082112.pdf

The quarantine restricts the movement of hardwood logs, firewood, stumps, roots and branches out of the regulated area and also restricts the sale of nursery stock, green lumber, and logs of the following trees: maples, horse chestnut, buckeye, mimosa, birch, hackberry, ash, golden raintree, katsura, sycamore, poplar, willow, mountain ash, and elms. Program staff continues to monitor regulated areas, respond to service calls and conduct training sessions for compliance agreements.

There are several places you can find out more including the USDA ALB information site:

www.AsianLonghornedBeetle.com ODA ALB information:

<http://www.agri.ohio.gov/TopNews/asianbeetle/>

Or the OSU Extension Office in Clermont County at <http://clermont.osu.edu>

Eastern Tent Caterpillars

I am seeing tents showing up in many trees along the roadways. The tents look like a web in the forks of branches. Some people think these are Bagworms because the web is a protective like bag. These are most often found in fruit trees. Bagworms have cocoon and a single worm that is normally found on evergreens. For more information about Eastern Tent Caterpillars go to the following link from the University of Kentucky. <https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef423>