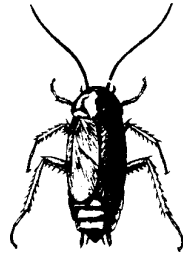


PEST CONTROL BULLETIN NO. 23

ORIENTAL COCKROACHES



DESCRIPTION

The oriental cockroach or "water bug" is dark brown to black and 1 to 1 1/4 inch in length. Females of this species have only traces of wings, while males have short wings which cover half to three quarters of the body. This kind of roach also has long antennae which are at least as long as the length of the body.

HABITS

Oriental cockroaches are shy and secretive preferring dark, cool, and damp areas. They are most often found in water meter boxes and dense vegetation along curb sides or foundations. Occasionally homeowners will find this roach in the home; often in the bathtub or shower. This does not mean that the home is infested, more likely it is the result of the roach searching for food and water away from its nesting area. Foraging at night, the cockroach may follow a waterline into the home. They are often seen during summer evenings on the lawn or sidewalk approaching the home in search of food.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Prevention and control efforts are necessary to control oriental cockroaches around the home and should be concentrated in those areas where breeding is most likely to occur. The following are places most favorable to oriental cockroaches for breeding:

1. House Foundation:

Breaks in the concrete foundation permit the roach to come and go under the slab of the house.

The concrete helps to keep the soil under it cool and moist. Control of cockroaches here requires spraying of insecticide around the foundation and patching up cracks or breaks in the concrete.

2. Landscaping:

Thick vegetation around concrete walkways, foundations, and stairways provides good hiding places for this kind of cockroach. Control of cockroaches requires trimming of vegetation and in some cases thinning out of vegetation may be all that is necessary.

3. Sanitation:

Prevention and control of cockroaches requires elimination of food sources needed by the roach for survival. These food sources may be pet food, spilled garbage containers, or trash cans in poor condition. Piles of wood, lumber or other debris stacked against the house, fence, or wall may also provide hiding places for roaches. General yard cleanup should be done regularly. Pet food should be limited to just the amount that can be eaten immediately. Plastic trash can liners are recommended.

4. What Kind of Spray and Equipment to Use:

The tank type sprayers such as the "Hudson" sprayer is the best kind to use. You can also use the jar type sprayer which attaches to the end of a garden hose. Insecticides such as diazinon, Baygon®, or Dursban® will kill cockroaches. Be sure to follow label directions carefully.

* * * * *

This information is provided to help homeowners with their pest problems. Insecticides may be purchased at nurseries, hardware, farm supply, and pet stores. If additional help is needed, contact with a licensed pest control operator is suggested.

No endorsement of trade names or products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products not mentioned.

PRECAUTIONS

1. Handle insecticides with care and follow instructions on the label.

2. Do not use around open flame or exposed foods, and always clean food preparation areas after the use of pesticides.
3. Store out of reach of children and pets, preferably in locked cabinets.
4. Never keep pesticides in anything other than the original container.
5. Never reuse the pesticide container to store any other materials.
6. Dispose of all empty containers by placing them in the trash can for removal to the local disposal area.



ORANGE COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL DISTRICT

13001 Garden Grove Boulevard, Garden Grove, CA 92843 • Mailing Address: P.O. Box 87, Santa Ana, CA 92702
(714) 971-2421 • 1-800-734-2421