

The

ADVOCATE

A Publication of the Missouri Pest Management Association



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to Summer in Missouri! One week it's 100 degrees and the next it's 75 with a low of 50! I hope your business is back to pre-covid and your employees are well.

Your MPMA Board of Directors is busy planning events for 2021. We will hold our annual August Recertification on Friday, August 20 at a new location, the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel in Jefferson City. This location is a little further from Prison Brews, where the Bocce Tournament is held, but it has a nice bar and restaurant and is adjacent to another restaurant - Big Whiskey. Make your reservations quick as this hotel is very popular.

Speakers lined up for the Friday Recertification include Neil McNeill, Dow AgroScience; Brian Sundnas, Control Systems; Jake Clabaugh, Central Life Sciences; Liz Turner, Catchmaster; Mike Weissman, Syngenta; Nate Peterson, Bayer and Harry Connoyer, Harry's Consulting and Pest Supplies. These speakers always volunteer their time for our education workshops and we ask that you support them in return.

We will also hold our annual Bocce and Golf Tournaments on August 19th to raise funds for our PAC (Political Action Committee). If you have not participated in this fun-filled event, you are missing out. The Golf Tournament will be at Railwood Golf Club with a 12:00 o'clock shotgun start. You can bring a team or we will place you on a team. The two person Bocce Tournament is held at the Prison Brews in Jefferson City (no skill involved to play Bocce). **Pre-registration is appreciated for these events.**

The December Joint Conference will be in St. Louis this year at the Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet Hotel and Conference Center. The education committee is working with speakers now for the two day event on December 13-15, 2021. If you would like to volunteer, please contact one of the members of the education committee - John Myers, Larry Hobson, Janet Preece and Jay Everitt. Jeff Preece will once again be holding testing for the ACE. Contact MPMA for more information on this designation.

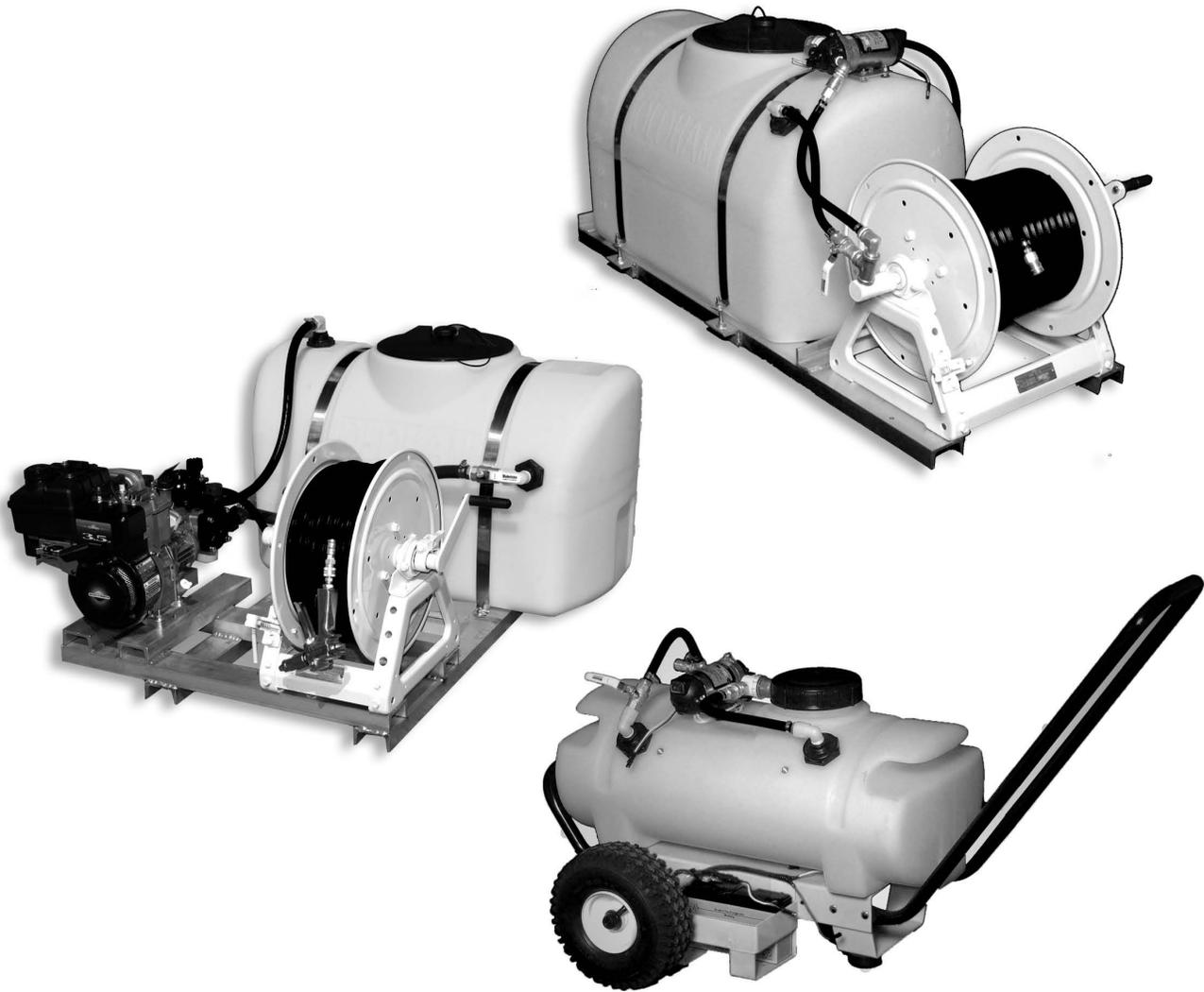
If any of the MPMA Board members can assist you in any way, our contact information is in the back of this newsletter. See you all in Jefferson City in August!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Schuessler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary Schuessler, MPMA President
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Oldham

chemicals company, inc



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NEWSLETTER
of the
MISSOURI PEST MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

Newsletter Editor - Brad Dutoit

Newsletter Publisher - Sandra Boeckman, Executive Director

Content & Editorial Policy

News and items and/or letters pertaining to the Pest Management profession are welcomed. The editor has the right to edit or reject all material received. An address and telephone number where the writer may be reached during normal business hours should also be included for verification purposes.

The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily representative of those held by this publication, MPMA, its staff, officers and contractors. All articles and news items, if accepted and published in the Advocate will be on the representation that the agency and/or author is authorized to publish the contents and subject matter. The agency and/or author will indemnify and hold the Publisher and Editor harmless from and against any loss or expenses arising out of publication of such items, including, without limitation, those resulting from claims of suits for liable, violation or right of privacy, plagiarism or infringement.

No responsibility is assumed for errors, misquotes or deletions as to this publication's content.

Distribution Changes

The Advocate is published four times per year - January, April, July and October.

Copy Deadlines will be as follows:

January Issue - December 15

April Issue - March 15

July Issue - June 15

October Issue - September 15

Advertising

Advertising deadlines will be the same as copy deadlines - no exceptions. Advertising rates are as follows:

<u>Size</u>	<u>One Issue</u>	<u>Four Issues</u>
Quarter Page	\$69.00/issue	\$240.00
Half Page	\$131.00/issue	\$500.00
Full Page	\$203.00/issue	\$750.00

Call for special Allied Member discount pricing at MPMA, 573-761-5771.

Address & Other Changes

Notify MPMA is you change your address or company name. Write to MPMA, 722 E. Capitol Avenue, Jefferson City, MO 65101 or call 573-761-5771.

Postmaster: Send address changes to: 722 E. Capitol Avenue, Jefferson City, MO 65101.

CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

August 19-20, 2021

**Board Meeting, PAC Fundraiser
& August Recertification**
*Courtyard by Marriott
Jefferson City, MO*

(See page 14 for a full agenda)

October 21, 2021

Board Meeting
MPMA Office

December 13-15, 2021

Annual Conference and Exposition
*Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet
St. Louis, MO*

(More information is coming soon)

March 11, 2022

Winter School
*Oasis Convention Center
Springfield, MO*

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HELPING OUR No. 1 INDUSTRY

SENATOR MIKE BERNSKOETTER



As chairman of the Senate’s Agriculture committee, I understand the important role agriculture plays in our state. After all, it’s Missouri’s No. 1 industry, employing nearly 400,000 people and contributing \$88 billion annually to the state’s economy according to the Missouri Department of Agriculture. At its most basic level though, agriculture is good, honest work, done by good, honest people. It puts food on the table for not just Missourians, but for people all over the world.

With that in mind, I believe it’s vital the General Assembly do everything it can to support this important industry. While we were able to pass some meaningful agriculture-related bills this past legislative session, not all of them were able to get across the finish line. While it’s normal for many bills to never get to the governor’s desk at the end of session, several of these unresolved issues in particular are time-sensitive.

For instance, the Missouri Agricultural and Small Business Development Authority (MASBDA) tax credit programs are set to expire on Dec. 31, 2021, before the Legislature returns for its next regular session in 2022. These programs have helped bring an estimated \$247 million in direct and indirect benefits to Missouri since 2000. Another tax credit program, this one dealing with ethanol, is also set to expire at the end of this year. Had it passed, Senate Bill 37 would have extended these useful programs, as well as a program allowing SNAP recipients to use their benefits to get fresh, healthy foods at their local farmer markets.

Then there’s the effort to protect property rights. House Bill 527 would have restricted the use of eminent domain for merchant utility lines and ensured farmers and other property owners were not taken advantage of by out-of-state energy companies. Unfortunately, this effort also stalled in the last few days of session.

Last week, I, along with vice-chair of the Senate’s Ag Committee and leadership of the House’s Ag Policy Committee, wrote a letter to the governor requesting he call an extra session focused on agriculture. I believe this extra session will give the General Assembly the opportunity it needs to address many of these important agricultural issues sooner rather than later. I look forward to working with my legislative colleagues in the near future to help keep agriculture Missouri’s No. 1 industry for years to come.

As always, it is an honor to serve the 6th Senatorial District. If my office can be service to you, please feel free to contact us at (573) 751-2076. For information about my committee assignments or sponsored legislation, please visit my official Missouri Senate website at senate.mo.gov/Bernskoetter.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Bernskoetter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Bernskoetter

Senator, Missouri 6th District

(573) 751-2076

Mike.Bernskoetter@senate.mo.gov



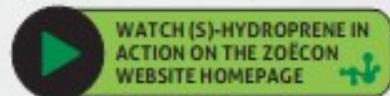
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POST COVID-19 CUSTOMER SERVICE TIPS

NANCY FRIEDMAN, THE TELEPHONE DOCTOR

How do we “do” customer service in this ‘new normal’ and virtually?

It’s the same, but a bit more of it.

Customers expect great service 24/7/365. Always have. On the phone or in person. Let’s not let COVID be that excuse.

Yes, many companies are understaffed; however, that’s happened before. Many companies are struggling. And that’s happened before. Many companies have had to hire new folks to replace the ones that left. And that too has happened before.

It’s not fun, it’s not fair and it’s not right.

However, if you’re going to stay in this fight, and most of us will and want to, we need to UP the service angle. We cannot let this virus cripple us. It’s done enough damage. If you’re lucky enough to be declared ‘essential’ and if you’re lucky enough to be open and still serving customers, do more than you did before! Have your staff do more than they used to.

These 5 steps to post COVID-19 customer service will help. Sit with your staff and ‘talk’ with them. Have them understand customer service is not a choice; never has been. And it’s more important during these times than ever before. How can they help? Get some of their thoughts.

Here are ours:

1. Start some sort of training NOW. Next week could be too late. If you have some customer service training in place, step it up. If you don’t, start



something to help your staff go above and beyond. It’s too easy in today’s marketplace to go somewhere else than stick around with surly, uneven help. Even the old, “Thank you for shopping with us,” “We appreciate your business,” and “Have a wonderful holiday” go a long way and costs nothing.

2. Meet with your staff at the end of the day. What went wrong? What went right? Capture the ‘right.’

3. Have your staff put on a mental suit of armor. Let the verbal projectiles bounce off them. Most of the customers are not upset with ‘them.’ They usually are the target, sadly. Talk about that. Let the staff know you are aware there are some ‘not so fun customers’ out there. The bulk of them are simply trying to buy something or have a nice dinner out.

4. Your employees need to have the CARE GENE. That’s critical. “Customers don’t care how much you know, until they know how much you care.” Sitting and reading a book, doing your nails, or talking with a coworker when a customer walks into the store is not good news. Jump up, walk over, SMILE and say hello. Introduce yourself. Names matter. We need to be different and special during this unusual time.

5. The most important of all: SMILE. Have smile lessons if you must. Don’t let your staff enter the floor without a smile. “A phony smile is better than a real frown.” It’s not about you – it’s about the ‘customer.’ And no matter what time of year, a smile will win folks over.

"My favorite thing about the product is how well it works and how well it holds up to our harsh environments, especially here in Arizona.

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– **Austin Burns**, Burns Pest Elimination, Phoenix



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PEST MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS CAN WIN BIG WITH THEIR DEMAND CS INSECTICIDE SUCCESS STORIES

Pest management professionals can share their Demand CS success stories for a chance to win one of eight FlowZone® Typhoon 2™ Variable-Pressure, Battery-Powered Sprayers

GREENSBORO, N.C., USA, June 7, 2021 – Demand® CS insecticide from Syngenta has an established reputation for providing pest management professionals (PMPs) with reliable, long-lasting control of a variety of pests. Now, Syngenta wants to hear from the PMPs who depend on it in their businesses. Starting today, PMPs can submit their Demand CS success stories for a chance to win one of eight FlowZone® Typhoon 2™ Variable-Pressure, Battery-Powered Sprayers every week through July 31, 2021.

“Many PMPs have stories about tough accounts and the products that helped them overcome the challenges,” said Kristen Oakley, marketing communications lead for Professional Pest Management (PPM) at Syngenta. “We want to celebrate and give back to PMPs who have put their trust in Demand CS while sharing what makes it an essential part of their pest control arsenal.”

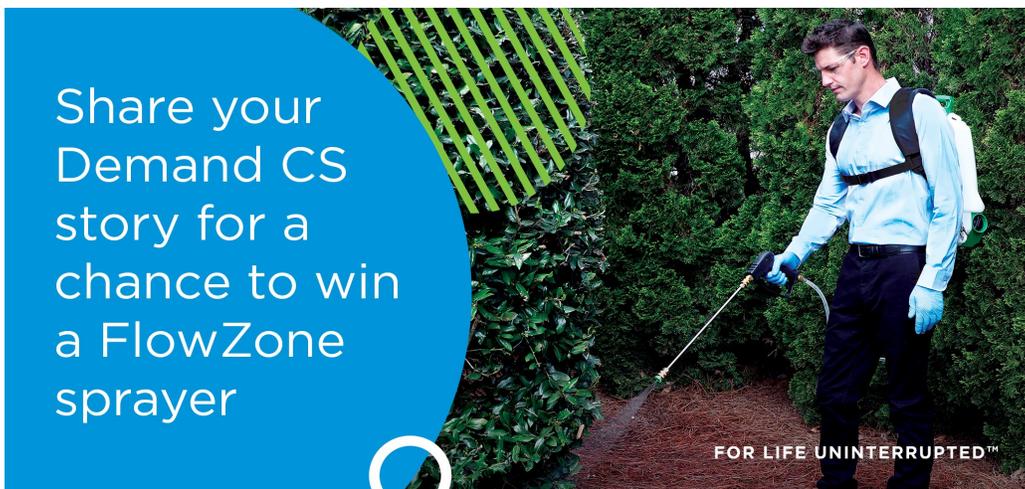
Demand CS has proven itself as an industry-standard insecticide by offering effective control of more than

30 pests, including ants, cockroaches, mosquitoes, ticks and more. It provides immediate and long-lasting control for up to 90 days with iCAP technology™, a unique formulation that can endure harsh conditions like UV rays and pH extremes. Demand CS is also a part of several SecureChoice™ assurance programs for guaranteed control of public health pests like mosquitoes, ticks, spiders and scorpions.

“Demand CS has stood the test of time in the pest control industry,” said Marshall Gaster, market manager for PPM at Syngenta. “Whether PMPs choose it because of its quick knockdown, residual control, reduced callbacks or another of its many benefits, it’s a go-to product for many of them. We want to hear about their successes using Demand CS for the most difficult jobs and reward them for their hard work and loyalty.”

To submit a quick Demand CS success story or to learn more about the product, simply visit SyngentaPMP.com/DemandCS. You can also join the conversation online by connecting with @SyngentaPest on Twitter using the hashtag #DemandCS and on the Syngenta Pest Facebook page.

Share your Demand CS story for a chance to win a FlowZone sprayer





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Randy Nader
 Former owner of Nader's Pest Raiders

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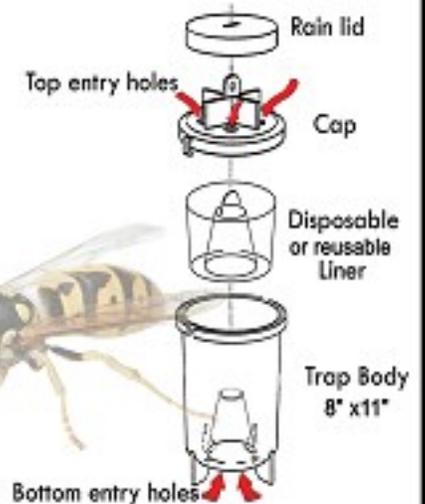
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CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF YOUR B & G SPRAYER

WM H. ROBINSON, B & G EQUIPMENT COMPANY

The B&G sprayer is the workhorse of professional pest control. Most service technicians use their sprayer every day for routine pest control service, or for special jobs that require precise application. The tip shut-off valve ensures customer safety, and the rugged stainless steel and brass construction ensures long service. However, the sprayer has moving parts, valves, and washers that require regular maintenance to keep them in top condition. Monthly care and cleaning of the sprayer will keep it trouble-free.

The 'Six-Point Maintenance' program will keep your B&G sprayer ready for any pest control job. This program covers the key components of the sprayer—from the nozzle to the tank—and takes about 15 minutes. Start with an empty tank, and the hose drained of liquid. It helps to work at a sink with good lighting. Start at the nozzle and work back to the pump tube, and finish by cleaning the tank.

Six-Point Maintenance

Nozzle – The nozzle is made of high-grade brass and will survive being knocked around in the back of service trucks. However, with extended use the openings for the fan sprays and the pin-stream will gradually enlarge. This increase will change the angle of the spray, and the distribution pattern of the liquid in the fan may become uneven.



Note: The general appearance of the nozzle may not indicate that the openings have enlarged or are damaged. Replacing the nozzle every year is a reasonable schedule and will maintain an accurate spray pattern and flow rate.

Hose – The hose needs replacement only when damaged. Check the connection points: hose to valve, and hose to tank. These are common sites for wear

and leaks. A leak at the host-to-tank connection may require replacing the Teflon washer. Don't over-tighten this fitting, the washer may be crushed and clog the hose.

Filter/Strainer –The filter/strainer should be removed, cleaned, and replaced regularly. Regardless of the water source or insecticides



used, small pieces of dirt and debris often get into the tank. The strainer keeps dirt from clogging the valve and blocking the spray.

The filter on the Next Generation valve is located at the hose and valve junction. It is a flat screen that filters the liquid before it enters the valve, and it is held in place by an O-ring. The mesh on this filter is the same as for the filter in the standard Extenda-ban valve and serves the same purpose—remove dirt from the incoming liquid. Remove it and clean with a nylon brush.



Valve – The Extenda-Ban valve is designed for long service without leaking. A leak in the gaskets may result in a small amount of liquid on the handle, or at the end of the valve. Small leaks can be corrected by slight tightening (1/4 turn) of the packing nut; use a 3/8 wrench.



Check Valve —The check valve at the base of the pump cylinder admits air into the tank as the pump handle is depressed. It can become worn and deposits around its edge (on the pump



(Continued on page 11)

CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF YOUR B & G SPRAYER

WM H. ROBINSON, B & G EQUIPMENT COMPANY

cylinder) can cause it to leak. Periodically replacing the check valve (PV-266) will keep proper pressure in the tank. Clean the bottom of the pump cylinder to remove deposits that build up around the edge of the check valve.

Cleaning the Tank

Pesticide residues can form on the inside of the tank, especially when the tank is not emptied every day. Cleaning inside the stainless steel tank is an important part of a care and maintenance program, but should be performed carefully and with the correct cleaning fluids.

Do not use bleach as a cleaning agent. It is not effective in removing pesticide residue, and it can create small holes in the stainless steel tank. Cleaning should be done with a warm, detergent solution and

with a plastic brush to remove residue from the tank bottom and sides. Do not use ammonia-based cleaning materials because this chemical will damage the brass parts. The siphon tube extends along the side and close to the bottom of the tank; be careful not to hit (and possibly bend) the siphon tube when using a brush to clean inside the tank. The hose can be cleaned with detergent solution by pressurizing the tank and spraying into a sink for several minutes. Rinse the tank with clear water several times and flush the hose with clear water. If the sprayer is not going to be used for an extended period, remove the pump unit and store the tank upside down.



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SPIDER TIPS AND TRICKS FOR PMPs

DR. FREDER MEDINA, B.C.E.

TECHNICAL MARKET MANAGER, BASF PROFESSIONAL & SPECIALTY SOLUTIONS

Working as a pest control technician, I remember dealing with these urban inhabitants almost daily, especially in neighborhoods with wooded or grassy areas near a creek.

Imagine a home sitting on a hillside with lush vegetation, landscape lighting, and surrounded by large trees touching the structure. Spiders will seek any opportunity to build their webs near these outdoor lights while active hunters will search the grounds near a doorway or a window for a chance to snack on prey.

PMPs should keep in mind that prevention is key, and it is important to thoroughly inspect outside and inside the structure. Always look for openings, gaps, damaged window screens and weather stripping. Also inspect low, under decking, windows sills, under patio

furniture; and high under eaves and light fixtures. When selecting a pesticide use microencapsulated products such as Fendona CS, as they will provide longer protection. Keep in mind that by eliminating the spider's food source you can also reduce their population, thus pay attention to other insects in the area and use broad spectrum insecticides.

Now, more than ever, a strong focus on outside pest control services and customer education are very important for your success. Get your customers involved; since they have spent more time at home, they can direct you to where pests might be hiding and/or entering. Provide creative ideas and get them to work on weekend projects that will help reduce conducive conditions and make their homes pest-proof.

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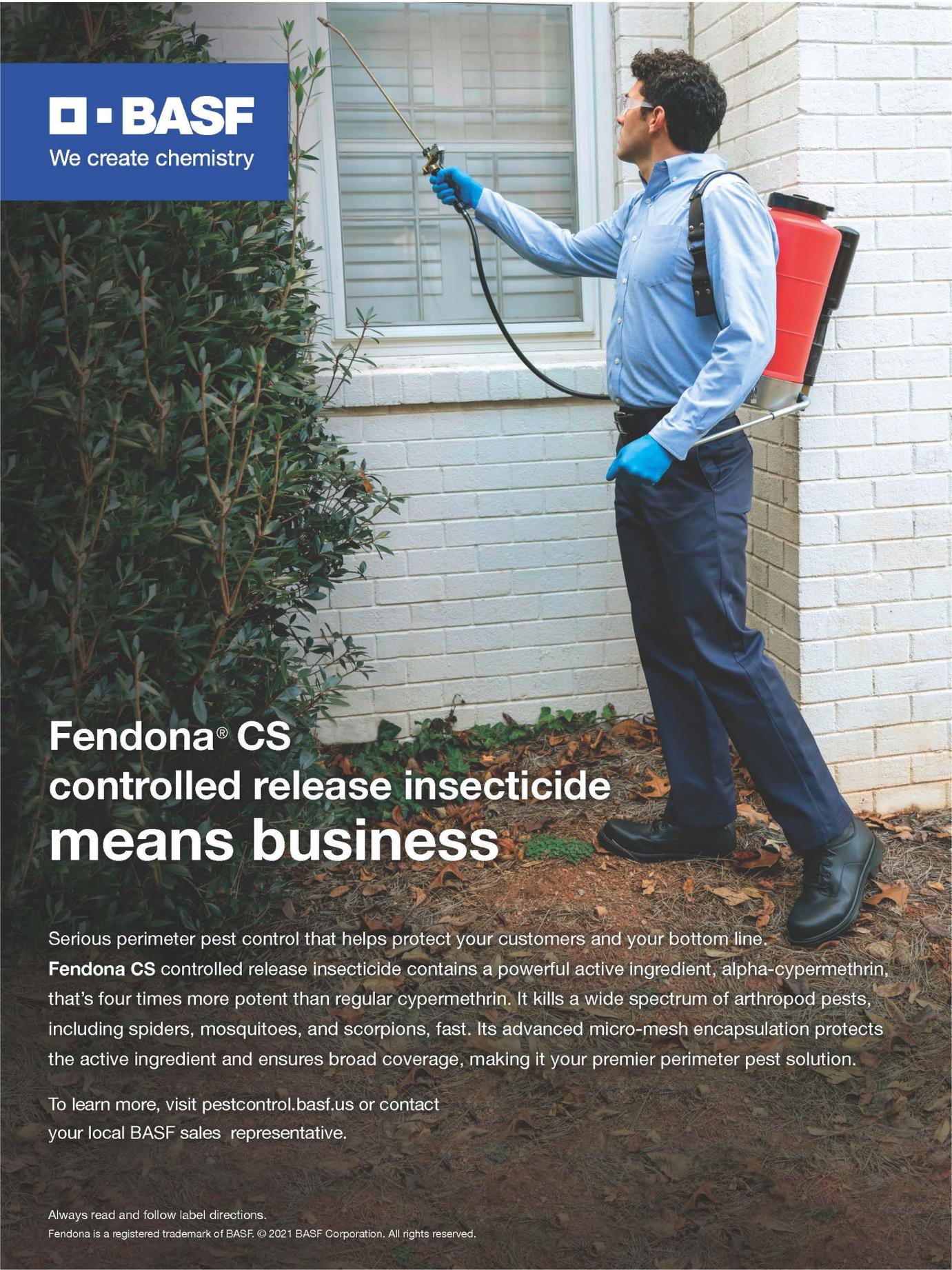


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Missouri Pest Management Association

Annual Recertification with

Golf Tournament & Bocce Fundraiser

August 19-20, 2021 ~ Courtyard by Marriott ~ Jefferson City, MO

Thursday, August 19

- 10:00 am Board of Directors Meeting...MPMA Office
- 12:00 Noon PAC Fund-Raiser Golf Tournament (shot gun start)...Railwood Golf Club
- 6:00 pm Bocce Tournament (2-person teams) ...Prison Brews Restaurant

Friday, August 20

- 7:30 am Registration
- 8:00 - 9:00 am FLEAS...Jake Clabaugh, Central Life Sciences/Zoecon
- 9:00 - 10:00 am RODENTS...Liz Turner, Catchmaster
- 10:00 am Break
- 10:15 - 11:15 am ANTS...Mike Weissman, Syngenta
- 11:15 - 12:15 pm ROACHES...Nate Peterson, Bayer
- 12:30 pm Lunch (provided)
- 1:15 - 2:45 pm SPIDERS...Brian Sundnas, Control Solutions
- 2:45 - 3:45 pm TERMITE BAITING and BIOLOGY...Neil McNeill, Dow Agro
- 3:45 - 4:45 pm SAFETY AND LABELS...Harry Connoyer, Harry's Consulting & Pest Supplies
- 4:45-5:15 pm Missouri Department of Agriculture
(Sources of Groundwater Contamination handouts will be distributed.)
Stephanie Deeken, Missouri Department of Agriculture

Missouri Pest Management Association Recertification, Golf & Bocce Tournament

Recertification Credits

- ⇒ **KANSAS Department of Agriculture** has APPROVED this course for 6.5 Recertification hours in 7D, 7E and 8, 4 hours in 7B and 1 hour in 7A.
- ⇒ **MISSOURI Department of Agriculture** has APPROVED this course for Category 7A-General Structural Pest Control and Category 7B-Termite Pest Control.
- ⇒ **ILLINOIS Department of Public Health** has APPROVED this course for Structural Pest Control 7 CEU.
- ⇒ **ARKANSAS Department of Agriculture** has APPROVED this course for All Structural Categories of Licensing (Classifications 1, 2, 3, 7 and 8).

Hotel Information

Courtyard by Marriott, 610 Bolivar Street, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

The Courtyard by Marriott has a block of rooms reserved at a special rate of \$119.00 for King or Queen/Queen occupancy until Tuesday, July 20, 2021. Call 800-321-2211 or 573-761-1400 for reservations and ask for the Missouri Pest Management Association negotiated group rate.

Golf Tournament

Railwood Golf Club, 12925 County Road 4037, Holts Summit, Missouri 65043

The PAC Fundraiser Golf Tournament is planned for August 19, 2021 at Railwood Golf Club. It will be a shotgun start at 12:00 noon.

Bocce Tournament

Prison Brews Restaurant, 305 Ash Street, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

The Bocce Tournament is planned for August 19, 2021 at Prison Brews Restaurant. It is \$10 per person (\$20 per team) and will begin at 6:00 pm.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Firm _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS

(Payment must accompany registration form.)

Check Enclosed Invoice Me

MasterCard/Visa/Discover/American Express

Card # _____

Exp. Date _____ CVV Code _____

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573-761-5771 ~ Fax: 573-635-7823
Email: missouripest@gmail.com

FEES	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	Member Fees (includes materials, breaks, lunch)
<input type="checkbox"/> \$175	Non Member Fees (includes materials, breaks, lunch)
<input type="checkbox"/> \$65	Golf Tournament
<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 per person	Bocce Tournament Teammate _____
Add 10% if registering after August 10, 2021.	
\$ _____ Total Amount Enclosed	

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ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THE CICADA CHAOS OF 2021?

HERE'S WHAT TO EXPECT

In an event that sounds like it was pulled from a horror movie, billions of Brood X cicadas will emerge from the ground for the first time in 17 years to mate and lay eggs. This natural phenomenon is expected to begin this May in 15 states, and it will truly be a sight to behold. When Brood X cicadas emerged in 2004, news headlines read, "17-Year Cicadas Answer Cue With a Crunch Across the East" (The New York Times, 2004) and "Cicada Invasion Begins" (CBS News, 2004). As their emergence grows near, many Americans residing in the impacted states are left wondering what exactly this may mean for them. And things will get weird...

It is going to be LOUD! To attract mates, cicadas use a special structure on their abdomen known as a tymbal to produce a loud buzzing sound. They are known as the loudest insect in the U.S. and in large groups this sound can reach as high as 100 decibels. That's about as loud as a power lawn mower, jack hammer or garbage truck.

- **Tip:** If you are sensitive to loud noises, wear a pair of ear plugs or put the AirPods in noise cancellation mode when spending extended periods of time outdoors.

It may look and feel like it's raining cicadas. Sounds like something out of an apocalypse movie, right? Cicadas are clumsy fliers and have been known to fly into people or objects that cross their paths. As a result, it is common for cicadas to unknowingly land in your hair, get stuck on your clothes or fly into you home if you leave doors and windows open. Periodical cicadas, however, are unable to breed indoors, so an infestation in your home is not likely.

- **Tip:** Ensure your doors and windows have screens if you keep them open on warm days.
- **Tip:** Carry an umbrella, wear a hat or keep long hair tied back when spending time outdoors.
- **Tip:** Ensure your windshield wipers are working properly and regularly clean your windshield to

prevent buildup of discarded shells.

- **Tip:** Limit the amount of time you spend outdoors during the day. Cicadas are least active early in the morning when temperatures are cooler and during nighttime.

Your yard may be littered with cicada shells. Cicadas emerge from the ground by the hundreds or thousands per acre in their nymph stage. Once above ground, they will shed their shells, which you may find discarded near trees or on the ground.

- **Tip:** Rake your lawn regularly and discard any left behind shells.

They won't stick around for very long. Just as quickly as they will emerge, Brood X cicadas will disappear. After spending 17 long years underground, these nuisance pests only live for a few weeks to mate and lay eggs. Six to 10 weeks after the adults die off, the nymphs will begin to burrow underground to feed and grow for nearly two decades.

- **Tip:** Cicadas can cause cosmetic damage to trees when they lay their eggs on young tree branches. Protect tree saplings by covering them with netting or cheesecloth. Netting should have a mesh of no less than 1/4 inch and should be placed over the trees when the first male songs are heard.
- **Tip:** Catch them while you can on camera and share what you're seeing on social media. Be sure to tag @PestWorld in your posts so we can enjoy and share!

While the emergence of billions of cicadas may be unnerving, they are harmless to people. This spectacle of nature only occurs once every 17 years, so be sure to also take a moment to enjoy this natural wonder while it lasts.

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BROOD X CICADAS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

After 17 years underground, one of the largest broods of periodical cicadas is set to emerge.

You may have heard the buzz around “Brood X” of cicadas, but what exactly is a cicada? Cicadas are large, flying insects, typically known for the loud buzzing sound that males produce in order to attract female mates. These insects spend most of their lives underground and a small number of annual cicadas emerge each year. However, every so often, a massive number of periodical cicadas will all come up out of the ground at once, a sight that is hard to miss.

So, when do cicadas come out and how often do they come out? These insects are accurately referred to as 17-year cicadas or 13-year cicadas for the intervals at which they emerge, before which they spend most of their life developing underground. After 17 or 13 years, these insects will come to the surface for about a month to molt, copulate and lay eggs. Capable of producing between 400 and 600 eggs each, the adults

will then die off and their offspring will burrow into the soil, until resurfacing 13 to 17 years later. In 2021, Brood X, also known as the Great Eastern Brood, is set to emerge and be one of the largest in recent history, with billions of individual insects predicted to surface in 15 different states.

To learn more, check out this list of Brood X and periodical cicada frequently asked questions from Dr. Jim Fredericks, chief entomologist for the National Pest Management Association:

What Do Cicadas Eat?

During their time underground, cicadas primarily feed on the juices and sap of tree roots. Once above ground, adults may feed on plant juices which can cause minimal damage to trees.

What Does a Cicada Look Like?

Periodical cicadas typically have black bodies, orange wing veins, red eyes and six legs. They also have antennae and are typically 1 to 2 inches in length. Annual cicadas, which emerge each year, are black and green.

How Long Do Cicadas Live?

Above ground, cicadas only live for a few weeks and Brood X will most likely be gone before Labor Day.

What Does a Cicada Sound Like?

In large groups, the sound of cicadas can reach as high as 100 decibels and have been compared to the sound of electricity in some cases. So, how and why do they make noise? Using a special structure on their abdomen known as a tymbal, these insects produce a loud buzzing sound that is typically utilized to attract mates.

Where Do Cicadas Live?

Periodical cicadas spend the majority of their lives underground. When they emerge, they typically seek out trees where they can feed on sap and lay eggs in slits that the females cut on the ends of small

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(Continued on page 19)

BROOD X CICADAS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

branches. When it comes to where cicadas are found as far as geographic presence, Brood X in particular is expected to effect 15 different states, primarily in the mid-Atlantic and Midwest.

Are Cicadas Dangerous?

Another common cicada question is about whether or not they are dangerous. Although they may be loud, cicadas pose very little threats. While some people may ask do cicadas bite, rest assured that these insects do not bite or sting. Furthermore, they are not attracted to homes and typically stay outside.

What Do Cicadas Do?

Above ground, cicadas only live for a few weeks, during which they mate. The female cuts V-shaped slits in the bark of young twigs and lays about 20 eggs in each, for a total of 600 or more eggs. After approximately 6 to 10 weeks, the eggs will hatch and the nymphs will drop to the ground, burrowing into the ground to feed and develop for the next 13 to 17 years.

Are Cicadas Harmful?

In areas of high concentrations of cicadas, they can cause cosmetic damage to trees when they lay their eggs on young tree branches. However, they actually provide a number of different benefits to nature. Cicadas can serve as food for many animals, including birds, reptiles, snakes and even spiders. When underground, the nymphs construct tunnels that help to aerate the soil and allow for tree roots to get more access to nutrients and oxygen for growth.

Despite the astounding number of periodical cicadas that typically emerge as part of each brood, they're really quite harmless.

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WHAT JUST BIT ME?

HOW TO IDENTIFY BUG BITES AND THE PESTS THAT CAUSE THEM

Some biting pests such as mosquitos, fleas and ticks are most active during the warmer months. Others, like bed bugs, are active year round but become a larger concern with increased summer travel. Mosquitoes, fleas, ticks and bed bugs don't bite out of self-defense. No, they're biting you to get their next blood meal. While some biting insects merely cause itchy welts on the skin, others pose more serious health threats such as West Nile virus and Lyme disease. Use this guide on identifying bug bites to make sure you properly address any potential health or home issues before they become more serious.

Mosquitoes

Overview: Mosquitoes are one of the best-known summer pests because of their pesky nature. There are about 170 different mosquito species in North America alone. They are mostly brown, gray, or black and typically have white, silver, green or iridescent blue scales.



Habitat: Mosquitoes need water to breed, so they are often found near water source of all sizes – from ponds and marshes to the bird bathes in our own backyards.

Bite Mark: Mosquitoes are known to bite humans, leaving red, itchy bumps on the skin.

Threats: Mosquitoes are also vectors of many serious and potentially fatal diseases in the United States, such as West Nile virus, eastern equine encephalitis and dengue fever. Worldwide, mosquitoes have been implicated in the spread of yellow fever, malaria and Chikungunya virus.

Prevention Tip: Eliminate mosquito breeding grounds on the property by draining standing water

from flowerpots, birdbaths, grill covers, baby pools and other sources.

Unique Fact: Only female mosquitoes bite and feed on humans. They hunt for food by detecting body heat and the carbon dioxide we exhale.

Fleas

Overview: Fleas are parasites that feed on the blood of any warm-blooded host. The most common type of flea is the cat flea, which often feasts on cats, dogs and humans. Most fleas are dark reddish-brown in color and range in size from 1/12 to 1/6 inch long.



Habitat: Fleas transport themselves on household pets, rodents and wild animals like opossums, raccoons and skunks. Adult cat fleas usually remain on their hosts at all times, though this isn't true for all flea species.

Bite Mark: Fleas are known to bite their host, which often results in painful, itchy red bumps. Their saliva can also cause serious flea allergy dermatitis in pets.

Threats: Fleas have been implicated in the spread of disease, from the rare bubonic plague to the bacterial disease murine typhus, and serve as intermediate hosts for tapeworms.

Prevention Tip: Protect family pets by practicing active flea management, which includes bathing and grooming them regularly, visiting a veterinarian annually and using a flea treatment during the warm months.

Unique Fact: Fleas can jump up to 8 inches high, or 150 times their own height. If humans could do this, we would be able to leap over skyscrapers!

(Continued on page 21)

WHAT JUST BIT ME?

HOW TO IDENTIFY BUG BITES AND THE PESTS THAT CAUSE THEM

Ticks

Overview: Ticks are another type of biting pest known to suck the blood of its host. Contrary to popular belief, ticks are actually arachnids, not insects. The most common types of ticks are dog ticks, blacklegged deer ticks, lone star ticks and Rocky Mountain wood ticks. Ticks vary in color depending on the species, but most adult ticks are flat, oval and smaller than a sunflower seed, unless recently fed.



Habitat: Ticks are often found near woods or other highly vegetated areas.

Bite Mark: The most obvious sign of a tick bite is the tick itself latched onto or burrowed beneath the skin. Otherwise, the most recognizable sign is an expanding "bull's-eye" rash, which indicates Lyme disease.

Threats: Not only do ticks bite, but they are also vectors Lyme disease, babesiosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, anaplasmosis and a variety of other tick-borne diseases.

Prevention Tip: Inspect yourself carefully for ticks after being outdoors. If you find a tick, follow these steps to effectively remove and dispose of it.

Unique Fact: Blacklegged deer ticks can live as long as 200 days without food or water.

Bed Bugs

Overview: Bed bugs get their name from their habit of hiding near beds, which allows them to feed on human hosts while they sleep. Adult bed bugs are about ¼ inch long. They have mahogany to red-brown bodies that are flat and oval when unfed, and become swollen and elongated after a blood meal.

Habitat: Bed bugs are excellent hitchhikers. They will hide in luggage, purses, laptop cases and other personal belongings in an effort to find a human food supply. They are elusive creatures. Bed bugs are often found in close proximity to bedding and mattresses, but they also hide behind baseboards, in electrical switch plates and picture frames, behind wallpaper and nearly anywhere inside a home, car, bus, hotel, college dorm, etc.



Bite Mark: Bed bugs are known to bite humans, especially on the legs, arms and other body parts exposed while sleeping. While some people may develop red, itchy welts, others will show no signs at all.

Threats: Bed bugs don't transmit diseases, but people can develop an allergic reaction to the bed bug's saliva, which acts as a numbing agent.

Prevention Tip: Never bring second-hand furniture into the home without thoroughly examining it for signs of bed bugs, including small red to reddish brown fecal spots and molted bed bug skins.

Unique Fact: Bed bugs can ingest seven times their weight in blood, which is equivalent to an average male drinking 120 gallons of liquid.

Learn about stinging insects

Now that you've become an expert on biting pests, you should check out the Stinging Insects 101 article on bees, hornets, wasps and yellow jackets. You'll find some useful information on how to identify the pest, the nest and the threat.

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All materials to be published must be received no later than the dates listed.

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