

E-NEWSLETTER

Tips for Effective Ant Baiting

Baiting for ants has some advantages over other types of insecticides. First, baits can work when the nest cannot be found or it is inaccessible for treating with other chemicals. Second, they pose less of a risk to children and pets by reducing possible contact with any toxic chemical. Third, baits can kill the entire colony whereas most insecticides sprayed on a surface kill only the workers that contact it.

Remember, baits are effective *only if they are eaten by the ants* and not all baits are equally attractive to different ant species. Make sure the bait you use is acceptable to the ants. Place a small amount of bait where you see ants foraging and then watch their reaction for a few minutes. If the ants show no interest in the bait, try a different bait until you find one that they will readily eat. Once you find a bait that is acceptable to the ants, several other factors determine its effectiveness:

- **Sanitation** - Baits work best when there are no other food sources accessible by the ants. Recommend that your clients keep the area clean so the ants are not “distracted” from locating and feeding on the bait.
- **Proper placement** - Bait should be placed in known or suspected areas of ant activity. Be sure that bait is placed

out of the reach of children, pets, and wildlife. Never place bait directly on countertops where food is prepared or an area where it will get wet and contaminated.

- **Quantity** - Make sure you provide enough bait and that it remains fresh. If the ants carry away all of the bait then they may leave that area and go elsewhere before enough bait is spread within the colony. Ant species that are capable of producing large colonies, such as Argentine ants, may require more than one application of the bait.
- **Durability** - baits will eventually become unacceptable if they are exposed to high temperatures, rain and sunlight. Check baited areas for signs of ant feeding and replace baits that are no longer acceptable to the ants.



Always place baits out of the reach of children and pets.

TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE ANT BAITING



Baits are available in many different formulations, including granules that are mostly used outdoors.

Patience is important to successful baiting. Most ant baits are slow-acting. Explain to your clients that they may continue to see ants for a week or more after baiting. It is important that the ants are able to return to the nest with the bait so it can be fed to other members of their colony. Ask clients not to disturb or kill the ants with insect sprays or other means. Spraying the ants (or the area baited) will contaminate the bait and other ants will avoid it. If you are baiting indoors and your client does not wish to see ants, try placing the bait in less obvious areas (but where you see some ant activity) such as under/behind appliances, sinks, etc.

UPCOMING COURSES

Sept 14 - 15 NC Termite Technician Program

Sept 21 - 22 Master Termite Technician Program *NEW PROGRAM*

October 6 Stored Product Pests Workshop

October 13 Ant Workshop

At this time, we still have a few openings for the programs listed above. Contact Patty Alder at 919-513-3805 or patricia_alder@ncsu.edu to register.

WHAT'S PLANNED FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2010

IPM in Child Care Facilities. As part of an IPM in Children's Environments initiative, NCSU will be collaborating with the NCPMA and Toxic Free NC to develop an accreditation program for Pest Management Professionals servicing Child Care Facilities. Training will be expanded to other concerned groups such as regulatory agencies, facility management and parents.

The goal is to have a program developed by the end of this year. The program will most likely be a half-day course and will be



WHAT'S PLANNED FOR 2010

School IPM. NCSU's School IPM Program continues its role of assisting school systems with their IPM needs. Currently, we are working to ensure that the school districts are prepared for October 1st, 2011 – that's when it becomes mandatory that all NC public schools implement an IPM Program.

On the horizon for School IPM is our planned distribution of IPM Kits to give to school districts. The purpose of the kits is to provide school systems with the ability to conduct in-house training for teachers, maintenance staff, kitchen staff, parents, etc. The kits will include a School IPM DVD, insect specimens, and Powerpoint presentations.

We're also putting together a School IPM online forum with subgroups for Maintenance Directors, IPM Coordinators, PMP's, etc. to talk to each other about problems, solutions, etc. And we'll also use it to send updates and other important information to the various subgroups. We hope to have the online forum up and running within the next month.

In addition, we are very excited to announce that we have just launched a blog to discuss IPM in NC schools and childcare facilities. The blog can be found at <http://www.ncschoolipm.blogspot.com>.

Master Termite Technician Program. The Advanced Termite Training Program will be offered at the Structural Pest Management Training Facility September of this year. This program will be a day and a half course that will be ideal for experienced termite technicians or those individuals that supervise or manage

termite technicians. The program will focus on new and non-traditional construction that often make standard termite treatments challenging. Participants will discuss and learn the best approach to effectively treat for termites in these situations. In addition to soil treatments, other treatment technologies, such as foaming and wood injections, will be discussed in some detail. The program will include a visit to a house located on-site where participants will practice some "troubleshooting." The program will also include a section on termite rig repair in the field.

Participants must attend the NC Termite Tech Program and pass the program's exam before registering for the Master Termite Tech Program.

An exam is given in the afternoon of the second day. Participants who pass the test will be recognized as Master Termite Technicians and receive a certificate and uniform patch. Certified applicators are also eligible for 10 W-Phase CCUs upon completion of the course.

Fly ID & Management Workshop. In addition to the Ant and Stored Product Pest ID and Management Workshops, the Structural Pest Management Training Facility will offer a Fly Workshop. The workshop will include biology, identification, and management of filth flies as well as drain flies, fruit flies, fungus gnats, and other miscellaneous flies.

Please visit the Facility's website at <http://entomology.ncsu.edu/training> for more information on how to register for these programs.