

BOXELDER BUGS

by Stanley Rachesky
Entomologist, University of Illinois

The boxelder bug can become quite a problem to homeowners especially in the fall of the year. During the summer months these little bugs live mainly on boxelder trees where they can be found happily feeding on the seeds either on the tree itself or on the ground. They are not only found on boxelder trees but can also occur on maple, ash, etc., and also on fruit-bearing trees such as grape, apple, peach, plum, etc.

As cool weather approaches they migrate into buildings for protection. While migrating they can be found clustered on the sides of houses and crawling into any cracks or crevices they can find. Eventually, they get into the walls of the house and hibernate. On warm, sunny days during midwinter they can be found outside on the south and west sides of the house "sunning" themselves. Many boxelder bugs, at the same time, move into the house and really become a nuisance to the residents.

Boxelder bugs do not feed on food or clothing in the house nor do they bite, however, they can feed on some house plants. The big boxelder problem occurs when they soil curtains and wallpaper with their fecal material.

There are two generations of boxelder bugs each year. The massive development of the second generation depends on the temperatures in the late summer and early fall. It is the adults of the second generation that hibernate in and around the house causing all the trouble.

Sometimes it appears that the best solution for control, that is, control that would be final (once in a life time) is to take a trip down to the hardware store and purchase an axe and chop down the darn boxelder tree. This suggestion is almost as bad as instructing the homeowner to calk all cracks and crevices in the foundation and siding of a house.

Insecticides are perhaps the best hope or method for control. Thoroughly spray the trunks and the surrounding ground area of seed-bearing boxelder trees in the fall if the bugs are evident. In addition, spray the sides and foundation of the house, including a three foot strip beside the house.

Lindane 0.5% spray will give a nice quick kill. This should be applied to all surfaces to the point of runoff. Dieldrin 0.25% also will give excellent results. Applications of these insecticides may have to be repeated at one to two week intervals.

Inside the home boxelder bugs can be very easily controlled by picking them up with a vacuum cleaner and of course quickly disposing of them. Pyrethrin or DDVP household sprays will enable you to obtain quick knockdown and kill, but the use of these sprays are warranted in cases only where severe infestations occur. Do not, for heaven's sake, smash them on the interior walls of a house or you will find yourself in the repainting business.

C. E. STEWART

Civil Engineer

Irrigation, Drainage, Water Supply, Pumping Plants
Design — Reports — Consultation — Supervision
18357 Homewood Ave. Homewood, Illinois

FROM THE EVERGREEN CHAPTER OF THE GCSA IN THE WASHINGTON STATE AREA

We in the great PACIFIC NORTHWEST are blessed with a multitude of climates. Some along the immediate coasts of British Columbia, Washington, and Oregon rarely have frost. Rainfall is heavy, summers cool, early Spring and Fall both having delightful weather. After crossing the low Coast Ranges, the inland valleys of Western Washington and Oregon enjoy 12 months of golf. Rainfall will range from 30 to 40 inches yearly most of which comes from November through February. By June it becomes quite dry and July and August seldom bring rain. Humidities are generally quite low during the summer months. After a day during which the temperature might possibly get as high as 90 degrees, you will be looking for a blanket before the night is over. Irrigation is, of course, a necessity usually starting April or May and continuing into late September. Seldom do we receive snow, and that usually in small amounts lasting only a very short time. This year was an exception in western Oregon. While attending the GCSAA Conference in Florida, my home received 47 inches of snow, 38 inches coming in one continuous fall. This is, by far, the greatest fall recorded in our area of Western Oregon. The Cascade Range between Western and Eastern Oregon and Washington marks the dividing point between mild and severe winters. These mountains ranging from many 10,000 ft. peaks to Washington's Mt. Rainier, 14,410 ft, quite effectively milk the clouds of their moisture. Consequently, the eastern portions of both States are much drier. In fact, vast areas receive only from 6-10 inches of precipitation yearly. While we seldom see temperatures below 20 degrees above in Western portions of the two States, zero, and below, temperatures are common east of the Cascades. Vast acreages or irrigated crops are raised in these areas. Golfing is rare in the winter months. Many areas are sparsely populated with over two-thirds of the population of both States concentrated in the western one-third of each State. So—when you talk about the rainy Northwest—remember that nearly 2/3rds of it borders on desert. Many of you receive far more rain than we do. And do our golfers ever complain if they can't play 365 days a year. In fact, the only time our course ever closes is Christmas Day, and some golfers will sneak out to try their new clubs.

EVERSPRAY CO.

• UNDERGROUND LAWN SPRINKLING SYSTEMS

IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

GEORGE WELLEK

9250 GOLF ROAD
DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS
296-5555

ASPHALT DRIVEWAYS — PARKING LOTS — ETC.
"Golf Course Work a Specialty"

LEMONT PAVING CO.

SAND & STONE

115th & Archer Ave. (Rt. 171) — Lemont, Illinois
RAY MURPHY 257-6701