

## Pest aside

# 17-year invaders call it quits early

By Stanley Rachesky

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**THE 17-YEAR periodical cicada phenomena has rapidly come to an end.** In some areas of Chicago and suburbs, cicada nymphs emerged at the rate of 10 nymphs a square foot. In other areas, where emergences were predicted to be high, very few or no cicadas were seen.

Much cicada damage to the trees may be seen in many communities. The tips of the limbs have turned brown. A single female may have laid 400-600 eggs, depositing 12-20 in each puncture she made beneath the bark of the tree limb tips.

The eggs are now developing and should be hatching in a few weeks. They usually take six to seven weeks to develop. Soon, tiny cicada nymphs will be dropping to the ground, entering the soil and attaching themselves to the roots of trees and shrubs. There, the Rip van Winkle of the insect world will stay for the next 17 years.

**APHIDS ARE NOW appearing on many trees and shrubs in northern Illinois.** Homeowners should check their tulips, willows, sycamores, maples, poplars, honeysuckles, roses, and other plants found on their property. These little trouble-

makers appear in shades of red, black, yellow, or green. They suck the sap from plants and may cause leaves to curl up and eventually dry out.

Aphids secrete a sugary, sticky material called "honeydew" that is easily noticed on the plant leaves. It causes the leaves to shine or glisten. A black mold may grow on the honeydew. This mold will not harm your tree or shrub.

Ants love the sugary secretions of the aphids. So, if you see large numbers of ants crawling on your plants, check for honeydew deposits. Then, by looking a little closer, you'll discover the culprits—aphids.

Aphids may be controlled by spraying with malathion or diazinon. Follow label directions for application rates.

**LACE BUGS ARE appearing on sycamore trees.** These trees really have their problems. If it isn't insects, it's disease [sycamore anthracnose]. Lace bugs are small, usually whitish insects and can easily be recognized by the sculptured lace-like patterns on the upper surface of its body.

Check the leaves of your sycamore tree for yellow spotting. As the lace bug continues to feed, the leaf becomes brown and falls off. If you think control is necessary, you may apply a spray of Sevin or malathion.

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