

## INSECT PROBLEMS

by Stanley Rachesky  
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This has certainly been a busy year. Chicago area residents were overrun with insects and other small animal pests. The problems involved pests of trees, shrubs, lawns, flower gardens, home vegetable gardens, restaurants, zoos, residential areas of all types, golf courses, sewerage plants, park districts, and various types of storage plants, manufacturing plants, etc., etc., etc.

Every person in the world, without exception, has insect and small animal problems sometime in his life. Highly urbanized areas from New York to San Francisco will have identical problems occurring every year about the same time. The common seasonal occurrences, of course, involve mosquitoes in the summer, flies on picnics, house mice in the fall, a snake in the backyard, a tick invasion in late fall or winter—and the list goes on and on.

On the other hand, there are those problems that occur the year 'round—ants are a good example, pantry pests, cockroaches, carpet beetles, silverfish, termites, house flies, fleas, book lice (psocids). The list just seems endless, creating year 'round headaches for metropolitan residents.

Since January, 1967, I've been keeping records of the inquiries on pest problems that have arrived in my office from Chicagoland residents. Most of the questions and requests for help arrive in the form of letters. Over 250,000 inquiries have been received. Inquiries also were recorded from Chicagoland residents via telephone calls (35,000 plus) and office visitors (2,500 plus).

Our two most popular brochures requested by area residents are: Circular 887 "Keep Outdoor Pests Out of Your House" (over 50,000 distributed) and Circular 900 "Insect Control in the Home, Yard, and Garden" (50,000 plus). Both brochures are mailed to people requesting specific information on how to keep a variety of insects under control around and in one's house.

There's no reason why the year 1974 will be any different where insects are concerned. They've inhabited this earth long before man, and will probably be here long after man is gone. Two of the reasons for the insect's great success is ability to reproduce in fantastic numbers and his ability to adapt to all environments—even manmade.

Every year brings with it new ideas. Let's keep safety first and foremost in our minds. Last year over 26,000 people died due to careless home accidents. Poisonings increased 14 percent. It could happen to you or to your children. Let's all use common sense this year when we use any type of pesticides. Read all labels and use the product according to instructions.

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