

PEST CONTROL PROCEDURES

For a possible pest problem, follow the steps listed below:

- Keep food in sealed containers and away from open windows.
- Keep dishes washed and the sink clean (no residual food or water in the sink).
- Wash soda cans before setting aside for recycling.
- Clean up any crumbs on floors or counter tops.
- Take out trash regularly, including food wrappers.
- Observe any trails the pest may be using.
- Identify the type of pest; use the information below if necessary.

The Plant Services Department has a routine program of spraying for the control of insects around building perimeters. Any insect that goes back and forth between a building and the outdoors can usually be killed by using this method.

If there is an infestation inside a building, Plant Services will identify the intruder and decide what action to take. Plant Services does not spray inside buildings. If necessary, Plant Services will hire a licensed exterminator. The entire building must be vacated for at least 24 hours when this happens. This will be coordinated with the university employee responsible for that building.

Further Information:

1. Box Elder beetles hatch twice yearly; in the first warm spring days and again in the early fall. They are a nuisance for a couple of weeks, but are not harmful. Box Elder beetles can be vacuumed, but be sure to empty the vacuum bag into the outside trash right away, as the bodies will create an odor. After removing the bugs, spray the area with a mild dish soap (like Dawn dish soap) and water solution, or with a mixture of vinegar and water (1:1) and wipe up the spray to remove the scent trail.



2. Sugar ants can come indoors looking for food, but live outside the buildings. You can get rid of sugar ants by eliminating what they are after and by creating a simple ant trap with Borax (a laundry detergent booster). Make sure that there are no competing food sources (the only source you are providing is the ant bait). Plant Services recommends Terro brand ant bait.



RECIPE ONE (Ant Bait/Poison):

- 1 teaspoon of Borax Detergent Booster (contains boric acid)
- 1 cup of mint apple jelly

Note: Do not use too much Borax, or the ants will detect it in the jelly and avoid the bait. The perfect ratio (above) allows the worker ants to carry it with them to the nest where it will be distributed and eliminate the ants in the colony. Set out small amounts at a time on a lid or plate so that the bait does not dry out. It will take several weeks before the colony is destroyed.

RECIPE TWO (Ant Bait/Poison) – place mixture in little mounds:

- ¼ cup of Borax Detergent Booster
- ¼ cup sugar
- 1 Tablespoon dry yeast (found in the baking aisle of a grocery store)

Note: All types of winged ants have a two-week hatching cycle.



3. Carpenter ants are very large. They do not eat wood, but do make homes in it. Carpenter ants must go outside for sustenance. Outside pesticides will deter carpenter ants. Please notify Plant Services if you see these ants inside.
4. Termites are white and come in various sizes. They do eat wood. They do not leave buildings except to form new colonies. Outside spray is required to rid a building of termites.
5. Slugs are not harmful, but occasionally come inside if an opening is available. Slugs prefer damp, cool environments.
6. Spiders will often come inside through small gaps. Sprays are not effective against spiders. Vacuum spiders, webbing and any nests you might find under furniture or in corners. If vacuuming is insufficient, sticky traps are effective against spiders. If you obtain a sticky trap from Plant Services, place the sticky trap on a level surface against the wall and away from fabric (sticky traps are extremely sticky and the substance will stain fabric).
7. Fleas come in with animals (usually cats and dogs), and drop onto carpets. A bug bomb (also known as a total release fogger) is the most effective against fleas, but Plant Services does not supply bug bombs. Bug bombs are not effective against other kinds of pests because the mist does not get into cracks and crannies. Contact your Area Coordinator or Building Monitor before setting off a bug bomb. Any area being fumigated with pesticide must be sealed off, vacated anywhere from four to twenty-four hours, and then the air vented for safety.
8. Bees will sometimes attempt to build a nest in the eaves of a building. Plant Services will take care of swarming bees, once notified. Bees are prone to fly through open windows on occasion, so closing the window should take care of the problem.
9. Mice and other rodents can be destructive and introduce filth (via nesting, chewing holes, leaving behind feces, etc.). Plant Services supplies poison bait to eliminate these pests. Other methods are available on the market (e.g. sticky traps, spring tension traps), but disposal becomes an issue. With poison, the rodent will eat the bait, leave, and then die.
10. Fruit flies are generally seasonal, but can appear if food trash has been left inside for too long. Dispose of the inside food trash and then create a simple trap to get rid of fruit flies. In a container with straight sides (such as a coffee cup):
 - Fill your container halfway with fruit juice or sugar water
 - Add vinegar (if you're using sugar water, apple cider vinegar works well)
 - Add one drop of liquid dish soap

Note: The mixture should smell like vinegar and not like dish soap. If it smells like soap, add more vinegar.

For any other issues with pests, such as bed bugs or lice, please contact the Plant Services office at (503) 554-2010 for an evaluation.

The best deterrent to most pests is a clean environment and a working window screen. The window screens are not designed to be removed and will easily break if disturbed. Do not move (or remove) the window screens. Keep snacks sealed and away from open windows.