Cave Crickets (Camel Crickets)

Fact Sheet FS1129

Cooperative Extension

Edith Wallace, Ph.D., Master Gardener
Elaine Fogerty Barbour, County Agricultural Assistant

Description

Several different species of cave crickets are commonly found in dark, moist areas such as outdoor mulches and ground covers. Their appearance is of a humpbacked (camel) cricket, brownish, wingless, up to one inch long, having large hind legs with drumstick-shaped femurs and threadlike antennae that may be longer than the body. They sometimes migrate into homes, particularly basements, feeding on starch, fungi, and occasionally fabrics. Active at night, they hide during the day. They lack sound-producing structures, therefore no chirping sounds are heard.

Control Strategies

In the home, if practical, reduce moisture by dehumidifying basements. Remove cardboard boxes as the glue may serve as food. If only a few crickets are present, mechanical means (fly swatter, broom, vacuum cleaner) may be effective in removing them. In indoor spaces where they are found, spray around baseboards, cracks and crevices and around window and door frames with a product labeled for controlling crickets indoors.

Outdoors, apply products labeled for controlling crickets on and around the foundation outward two to three feet to provide a barrier band protecting against inward migration. Remove woodpiles and debris from around the house. Seal entry holes.

Photo credit: Edith Wallace.

© 2010 Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. All rights reserved.

For a comprehensive list of our publications visit www.njaes.rutgers.edu *August 2010*

Cooperating Agencies: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and County Boards of Chosen Freeholders. Rutgers Cooperative Extension, a unit of the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.

RUTGERS
THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY

Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
88 Lipman Drive, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8525
Phone: 732.932.5000