

Pests Signs & Solutions

A Quick Cheat Sheet for 7 of the Most Common Pest Problems



Argentine Ants



Description

Size: 1/16 – ¼ in.

Color: Brown to black and shiny



Signs

- Trails along sidewalks, buildings, tree branches & shrubs, baseboards
- Scouts looking for new sites may be seen. Their nest can be as far as a mile away

Solutions

- Sanitation: Ants are attracted to moisture sources, vegetable oils, proteins & sweets
- Sprays- Good for quick knock downs or barriers
- Baits - Longer than sprays, however they take the bait back to the nest to decrease the populations
- Cut tree branches away from home
- Efficacy takes longer than sprays
- Eliminate standing water
- Seal cracks around home

Gophers



Description

Size: 6-10 in.

Weight: 0.5 lbs.

Color: Brown



Signs

- Potential slope failure
- Mounds of fresh soil – crescent or horseshoe shaped

Solutions

- Reduce gopher systems using mechanical methods
- Removal of weedy areas adjacent to yards & gardens
- Trapping
- Burrow treatments (always done underground) such as fumigation (100 ft. away from structure) and baiting

Ground Squirrels



Description

Size: 18 in. long including tail

Weight: 1.25 – 2 lbs.

Color: Brown with gray flecked sides.



Signs

- Gnaw marks on bark & roots
- Potential slope failure
- Burrow systems – 4 in. diameter with multiple entry points
- Damaged crops, sprinklers, & irrigation lines

Solutions

- Remove brush piles, debris etc. This reduces available cover
- Destroy old burrows to prevent reinvasion
- Trapping
- Burrow treatments (always done underground) such as fumigation (100 ft. away from structure) and baiting

Mice



Description

Size: 12-20 cm

Weight: 1-2oz

Color: Gray, brown

Details: Large, floppy ears, long tails with hair

Signs

- Mice Droppings
- Damaged materials such as garden plants, turf, fruit trees
- Shredded paper-like materials are used for nests

Solutions

- Remove dense vegetation cover, weeds, & mulch
- Trapping
- Exclusion
- Baiting

- Flagging- Crown of plant is eaten, killing sections of the shrub



Rats



Description

Size: 9-11 in. long

Weight: 5 – 10 oz.

Color: Gray to white

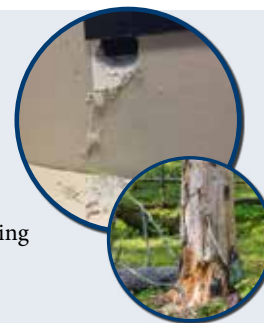
Details: Long pink tail with no hair, poor eyesight, keen sense of smell

Signs

- Rat Droppings
- Damaged Materials- Rats chew on wood, plastic, cardboard, soft metals, & wiring

Solutions

- Keep ground covers neatly trimmed & thinned out
- Keep tree branches at least 2 ft. away from buildings or walls
- Neatly stack any wood, gardening equipment or boxes 4 in. off the ground
- Flagging- Crown of plant is eaten, killing sections of the shrub
- Do not leave any pet food outside during the night
- Trapping or exclusion
- Rodent bait stations



Raccoons



Description

Size: 2-3 ft.

Weight: 7-30 lbs.

Color: Black mask, ringed tail

Signs

- Droppings, noises on the roof
- Damaged shingles, rooftop ventilators, wall insulation
- Missing Koi & other fish

Solutions

- Discourage individuals from relocating & feeding raccoons
- Reduce available food sources using trash can lids & keeping pet food inside the home
- Damaged vegetable gardens & grass rolled back in search of grubs
- Barking dogs
- Pick up fallen fruits & nuts
- Thin out overgrown trees & shrubs & reduce roof access
- Trapping or Exclusion



Skunks



Description

Size: 2-3 ft.

Weight: 7- 14 lbs.

Color: Black with white stripes

Signs

- Grass looks like it has been aerated. The hole is the size of its nose & grass rolled back in search of grubs
- Damage to porches & beneath buildings
- Barking dogs & Musk smell

Solutions

- Discourage individuals from relocating & feeding raccoons
- Reduce available food sources using trash can lids & keeping pet food inside the home
- Pick up fallen fruits & nuts
- Thin out overgrown trees & shrubs & reduce roof access
- Trapping
- Exclusion



For More Information on Specific Pests,
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