



# HOME & GARDEN

Home and Garden information center • 12005 Homewood Road • Ellicott City, MD 21042 • 1-800-342-2507

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## Indoor and Outdoor Pest Tips

- Mosquitoes are at an all time high as a result of the frequent rainfall. Prevent water from standing around your yard. Change bird bath water frequently, and turn over buckets, lids, garden furniture and toys, etc. after rainfall. The Asian tiger mosquito requires very little water for breeding. B.t. dunks can be used to control mosquitoes in backyard ponds. Follow label rates and instructions.
- Mining bees are active now. They are solitary bees that nest in underground burrows, fly low over the ground and make  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch holes in loose soil. They are not aggressive and the males have no stinger. To discourage their activity you can set up a lawn sprinkler.
- Earwigs are dark reddish-brown insects, about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches long with a pair of pincers at the end of the abdomen. They can be found both inside and outside the home in moist areas and are most active in the evening. They are predators of insect pests, like aphids, and also eat seedlings and chew holes in large plants. They are a “nuisance pest”, causing very little damage to plants.
- Fruit flies are numerous now and are attracted to fresh fruits and vegetables and kitchen scraps. Don’t leave fruit on the counter for more than a day or two and thoroughly rinse recycled containers.
- With all the moisture slug populations are very high this summer. They are very destructive to herbaceous annuals, perennials and vegetables. They can be controlled with a spray of vinegar and water directly on the slug, with traps and baits and, of course, handpicking. Look for them at night when they are out feeding on your plants
- Ticks are very active now. Wear light colored clothing, apply repellent, and get in the habit of checking yourself, your children and pets closely for ticks after spending time outdoors. Repellents are also effective at keeping ticks at bay. Deer ticks that can carry Lyme disease are especially high around the Chesapeake Bay.
- Ants are very active at this time. Many different types of ants may be found inside and outside the home. Carpenter ants are very large ants that tend to build their nests in outside woodpiles or structures that have been previously damaged by wood rots or insects. You must locate the nest to control this pest. Seeing many carpenter ants inside your house could mean that there is some wood decay in your house. Usually this is in the kitchen or bathroom. Try using bait stations to control minor infestations of indoor ants. Granular insecticides or bait stations labeled for outdoors use on ants are also available.

**Have a pest or gardening question?**

**Call the Home and Garden Information Center**

**800-342-2507 [www.hgic.umd.edu](http://www.hgic.umd.edu)**

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