

**Termites**

(From page 6)

...ity of a building is a sure sign of infestation, but since the swarm usually lasts less than an hour, many swarms go unnoticed.

The presence of small earthen tubes running along the foundation of buildings from the earth to the wood-work above is evidence that

termites are present. These tubes serve as runways from the underground nest to the food supply and will vary in diameter from the size of a wheat straw to the thickness of a lead pencil or larger.

If any of these signs are present, estimates of the extent of damage can be made by probing the building timbers with a sharp pointed tool.

**Prevention is best control**

The best control of termites is prevention against infestation, and the best prevention against infestation is proper building construction.

One of the first steps in building for termite control is to avoid placing any wood or other cellulose building material in contact with the ground. Be sure that all masonry walls are solid or as free from cracks as possible. Any wooden construction debris should be removed

from the soil of the building site. During construction, any -grade stakes, form boards or other waste material should be removed so that it is not covered with soil.

But if the infestation is already there control is a different matter. As was stated before, killing the winged adults will not control the colony. The insects must be killed in their underground nests and the nests destroyed.

Circular number 400 from the Pennsylvania University lists five chemicals which will control termites. DDT, Chlorodane, Pentachlorophenol, coal tar Creosote, Orthodichlorobenzene and Trichlorobenzene are listed as materials for termite control or eradication, but many of

them have an objectionable odor, are hard to handle, or require special equipment for their application.

In some instances the colonies will have to be located and dug out of the ground. Application of the poisons is not a permanent control, but most professional exterminators will give homeowners a guarantee for several years after treatment.

It is the consensus of most persons contacted who have had experience with termite infestations, that the job of controlling them is a job for experts or professionals. The average property owner should be able to recognize the signs of infestation, but the task of control is too complex for the experiences and equipment of the average layman.



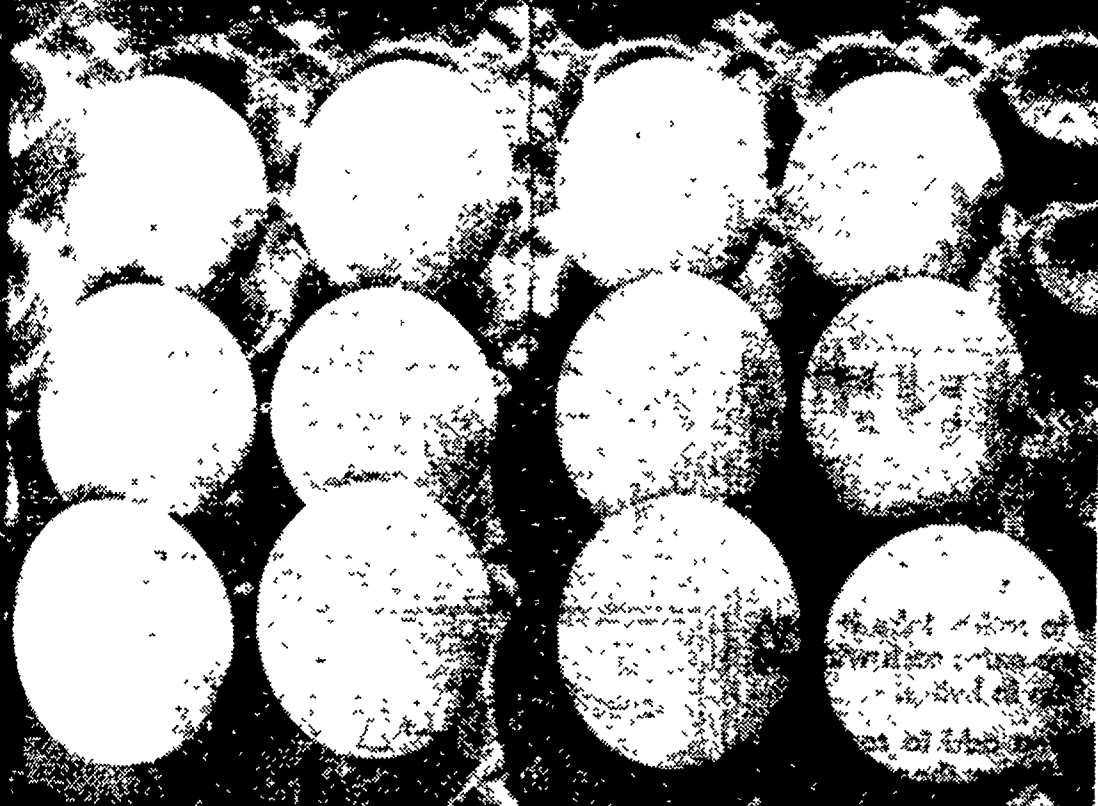
ONE OF THE SIGNS TO LOOK FOR if you suspect termite infection is the presence of the termite tubes running up over masonry walls to the wooden beams above. Since the workers must return to the soil each day for moisture, they build these little earthen tunnels to protect their delicate bodies from exposure to direct light or dry atmosphere. Termite colonies remain active most of the year, but swarm only in the spring when the temperature goes above 70 degrees.

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