

## Termites take years to do damage

NORRISTOWN, Pa. — If you're beginning to see signs of termite damage, you're seeing the result of years of infestation, says Paul Reber, county agent, with the Penn State Extension Service. Termites cannot cause enough damage in a short time to cause a building to collapse. Fortunately, they can be controlled through proper construction measures and the application of soil insecticides.

One of the easiest recognized signs of termite infestation is the presence of winged termites or of their wings alone. But don't confuse them with winged ants, which do not damage wood.

An ant has a narrow, wasp-like waist; a termite's waist is broad. The antennae of ants are elbowed, the termites' are straight. You'll be able to see these differences with a magnifying glass.

The winged termites are the only termites you'll see, but they're not the ones that do the damage. There are three castes of termites: workers, soldiers and reproductives (kings and queens).

The workers are creamy-white and are seldom seen unless a termite tube or infested wood is broken open. Soldiers have large narrow yellowish heads with long jaws and are about the same size as an adult worker, one-quarter inch.

The reproductives are brown or black and about one-half inch long. They have two pairs of translucent wings which break off shortly after swarming.

These shed wings are evidence of termites in a building. The insects usually swarm in late winter or spring. The reproductives are the only caste attracted to light, so these are the ones commonly seen.

Other signs of termite infestation

include earth-like material glued to wood that has been attacked by the termites. The wood has runways or passages in it.

When the wood has been infested for some time, it may be hollowed out or rotten in appearance. If you probe the wood with a screwdriver or other instrument, some worker termites may spill out.

Termite tubes also indicate the presence of the insects. These earth-colored tubes will probably be found on wooden posts, studs, mudsills, door and window trim.

Wood embedded in earth or in concrete cellar floors is especially susceptible to termites.

To control termites, you can use one of two methods: structural or chemical.

The structural method works on the principle that the less suitable a building is for termites, the less likely the chances of infestation.

To use this method, remove all scraps of wood from the vicinity of the building. Replace any wooden posts, steps, trellises, etc., with non-cellulose materials. Replace badly damaged timbers with sound materials. Do not permit wood within 18 inches of the soil. Provide adequate ventilation and drainage for basements, cellars and crawl spaces under the building. Fill any visible cracks and voids in the foundation with concrete or suitable caulking compound.

The principle of chemical control is to establish a barrier of poisoned soil between the wood and the colony. Chlordane is the only registered insecticide for homeowners for soil application to prevent and control termites.

The dosage and method of application are detailed on the label. Follow instructions carefully.

But the best method of control is still professional help, says Reber.

## Adams Co. installs 4-H Senate officers



Immediate past president of the Adams County 4-H Senate, Ed Wilkinson, congratulates 1984-85 4-H Senate President Sharon O'Brien as Josie Hess, 1984-85 4-H senate secretary, looks on.

## Work at home schemes can cost you money

NEWARK, Del. — A work-at-home job may sound like the answer to your money problems, but University of Delaware extension home economist Mary Alice Morris says to think twice before getting involved. Many times, she says, advertisers who promise large amounts of cash in exchange for a few hours of work at home are scheming for your money while offering little or nothing in return.

One of the more common offers promises a large income for part-time work stuffing envelopes. Usually you must send money to

get information about this business. Once you've paid your fee, you'll receive a booklet explaining how you place similar ads and trick other people into sending money to you. Or, you may receive a list of companies that supposedly need workers to stuff envelopes.

Other ads encourage you to set up a mail-order business in your home. You may be asked to make a large investment in merchandise, then buy advertising space, and hope consumers will want to purchase your product.

Another scheme offers cash in

exchange for goods produced at home. You must buy the materials to make the product, then mail the finished article to the company. Often the company refuses to buy your work, and you lose the money you spent on materials and postage.

The common feature of all these schemes is that you must send money before you can begin work. Morris says reputable companies with honest offers are willing to provide information about their opportunities before requiring a fee or investment.

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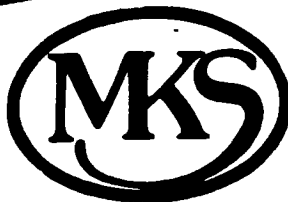
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