

Pest Alert - Periodic Cicadas



Periodic Cicada

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17-Year Cicada – Big Bug... Big Buzz!

After living below ground for 17 years, billions of **periodic cicadas** are set to emerge later this spring in the northeast US. Areas from North Carolina to Connecticut will witness this loud and spectacular sight.

Cicadas exist in huge numbers, up to a billion insects per square mile - that's about 35 of the 2" long insects per square foot. Males emerge from the ground first. They climb up trees where they produce a loud whirring sound to attract a mate. The male's mating call can be as loud as 90 decibels. That is the equivalent of a lawn mower or a jet airplane flying overhead.

After mating, the female cicada lays eggs at the tip of the branches of several types of trees. The eggs hatch and the nymphs of the insect fall to the ground where the process starts over again. The egg laying process often damages tender new growth, and results in the branch tip dying back. This damage is called "Flagging" and although it is temporary, can

result in visible damage to certain trees.

Periodic cicadas do not do permanent damage to trees, but their overwhelming numbers and large size make some consumers anxious to control them around homes and ornamental plantings.

Periodic Cicada Facts:

- Large bluish body and bright red eyes distinguish this insect from the annual or "Dog Day" cicada that emerges later in the summer in many areas
- Although the life cycle for this insect takes 17 years to complete, several populations, called "Broods" exist in the northeast, emerging at different times – This is Brood V (5)
- Males emerge first and create a noisy mating call to attract females
- *Often called "Locusts" this insect is not a grasshopper type insect and is not a danger to crops or plantings*
- Products that offer control of periodic cicadas are primarily to protect trees from damage to branch tips caused by female cicadas laying their eggs in slits that they cut in the branch with specialized body parts called ovipositors

Captain Jack's Products

CONCENTRATE #252 Pt.
CONCENTRATE #253 Qt.
DUST # 257 1.5 lb.
DUST # 258 3 lb.
RTU #250 Qt. RTU
RTS #255 Qt. RTS

Eight Products

CONCENTRATE #442 Pt.
CONCENTRATE #443 Qt.
DUST # 784 10 oz.
DUST #786 3 lb.
RTU #428 Qt. RTU
RTU #4281 1.3 Gal. RTU
RTS #426 Qt. RTS
GRANULES #788 3 lb.