



**In this issue:**

- Wasp Watch .....1-2
- EPA finalizes rodenticide ruling ...2-3
- 24 /7 pest management .....4-5
- Pharmaceutical pest management ....5-6

Copesan is an alliance of premier pest management companies that are united as a single entity for the sole purpose of providing quality pest solutions to businesses with locations throughout North America.

## Wasp watch

By Gerry Wegner, Technical Director, Pro-Guard Commercial Pest Solutions, Columbus, Ohio

**A**s we move from late summer and into autumn, scarcely a day passes when we don't encounter yellowjackets and paper wasps (also known as vespids). It's the time of year when we become acutely aware of the multitude of nests they've been secretly expanding in structural voids in buildings and landscaping throughout the summer.

So, what can be done to prevent or at least reduce these nuisance pests?

### Vespid foraging woes

Yellowjackets and, to some extent, paper wasps get noticed from late July on, foraging in abundance for both sweet liquids and meaty foods because it's the time of the year when insects, plant nectar, and fruit are in short supply.

As a result, anywhere food and beverages are located – from picnic grounds to outdoor employee break areas – become “combat zones” where people dodge, swat, curse, and sometimes get stung by wasps trying to keep up with their colony's growing demand for carbohydrates, fats, and proteins.

An integrated pest management (IPM) approach to these situations will not stop yellowjackets and wasps from foraging but will reduce their volume around populated areas. Here are some preventative IPM measures you could take:

- Inspect properties for nearby vespid nests and treat the site as appropriate.
- Experiment (where appropriate) with placing or applying botanical or synthetic products that demonstrate repellency to foraging vespids.
- Frequently clean up any food waste and beverage spills.
- Replace open-top trash receptacles with covered receptacles, and frequently wash receptacles and replace plastic liner bags.
- Treat trash receptacles and liners with vespid-repellent botanical insecti-



cides, where appropriate.

- Wash dumpsters and trash compactors when they are emptied.
- Bag all food waste before placing it in dumpsters and carefully place bags in the dumpster so they don't split open.
- Locate dumpsters away from loading docks and delivery entrances, when possible.
- Schedule cleaning of trash recep-

....Continues on page 2

## Wasp watch ... continued from page 1

tacles and dumpsters after dusk, when foraging has ceased. This will reduce the likelihood (and fear) of stings for employees.

- Implement a vespid trapping and/or baiting program at the perimeter of the property. Use jar traps with proven lures and stations with effective toxic baits to reduce numbers of foraging yellowjacket workers locally.

### Late season vespid entry

The appearance of yellowjackets and paper wasps in the occupied workspace areas of buildings generally occurs September through November in temperate regions of the United States.

This is when mated female wasps seek out overwintering sites in the exterior walls, roofing, soffits, and ceiling voids of buildings and then

make their way into occupied areas of buildings while seeking out sources of light and warmth. Untreated nests within buildings give rise to the new generation of reproductive females and males, which make their way into the warm, lighted areas of buildings, instead of the outdoors.

How should these situations be addressed?

- Locate the exterior entry points or nesting cavity of these vespids. Then treat the entry points or nesting cavity using an appropriate insecticide.
- Physically exclude all exterior entry points, if possible, to prevent further vespid entry.
- Locate all access points to occupied workspaces, and put exclusion measures in place.
- Interior access points that

cannot be excluded, such as panel or light fixture gaps in false ceilings, can sometimes be addressed by using portable insect light traps (ILTs) at wasp intercept points, such as in the void areas above false ceilings, on a temporary basis.

### Plan with a professional

Effectively reducing the nuisance of yellowjackets and paper wasps requires a keen understanding of these insects' behavior, thorough inspection skills, a working knowledge of building construction, and a solid grasp of the IPM options available, so don't hesitate to contact Copesan or your local Copesan Service Center for help.

For a more detailed look at this topic, see <http://copesan.com/resources/white-papers.aspx> for a longer version of this article.

## EPA finalizes rodenticide ruling

By Jay Bruesch, Technical Director, Plunkett's Pest Control, Minneapolis, Minnesota

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has re-assessed the safety of certain rodenticides – first- and second-generation anticoagulant products, plus several non-anticoagulants – in order to better protect the safety of children, pets, and wildlife animals. As a result, its rodenticide re-registration process is now complete.

In its ruling, the EPA recognized the importance of rodent control in commercial, agricultural, and residential settings and has attempted to balance restrictions, while maintaining the ability to provide efficacious control.

The new rules define three separate types of rodenticide users, and control the forms and packaging in which each of the different

groups can obtain rodenticides:

1. Homeowners. Homeowners will no longer be able to purchase loose meal- or pellet-based rodenticides. All rodenticide products available to homeowners will have to be sold as blocks – either in pre-loaded, tamper-resistant bait stations or in ready-to-use refills for bait stations. Homeowner products will be sold in retail stores, such

...Continues on page 3

## *EPA finalizes rodenticide ruling* ... continued from page 2

as hardware, grocery, and drug stores, in packages that don't exceed one pound. Homeowners will be prohibited from purchasing rodenticides classified as second-generation anticoagulants, such as products containing brodifacoum, difethialone, bromadiolone, and difenacoum.

2. Agricultural users. Farmers and other agricultural users of rodenticides will be able to buy rodenticides in farm-supply stores in packaging of eight pounds or more. The labels will indicate that the product is for use only in and around agricultural buildings. If used indoors, baits will need to be contained in bait stations if exposure to children or pets is possible. Above-ground uses outdoors will need to be put in bait stations, as well. Labels for the second-generation anticoagulants will restrict exterior placements to within 50 feet of agricultural buildings.

3. Pest management professionals. Pest management professionals will be able to purchase rodenticide products in packaging of 16 pounds or more. Bait stations will be required for all indoor uses if non-target exposure is possible. Bait stations will be required for all outdoor placements of second-generation rodenticides. As with the agricultural restrictions for second-generation anticoagulants,

pest management professionals will not be allowed to use these products further than 50 feet from structures. Food plant sanitarians performing their own in-house pest management programs will fall into this category as well.

Rodenticide manufacturers have until 2010 to bring their product labels in line with the new rules.

### **Impact on pest management professionals**

The EPA recognized the differences in professional vs. consumer applications and the reduced risk involved when a professionally trained applicator uses rodenticides. Therefore, the new labels will have the least effect on professional applicators.

When rodenticides are used, professional applicators routinely use tamper-resistant bait stations in the majority of placements. So there shouldn't be a major shift in policies or procedures for most professional applicators regarding the new label requirements concerning mandating station uses. There also has been an industry trend toward trapping as a replacement for exterior rodenticide use in some locations, which further lessens the label change impact.

The main impact will be from

the restrictions limiting the use of second-generation anticoagulants to no further than 50 feet from buildings. This will definitely affect fence line baiting programs. Unless a fence line is within 50 feet of a building, the use of second-generation rodenticides will not be permitted.

Many food facilities and some other commercial facilities rely upon fence line baiting to protect their structures. In addition, there are documented cases where exterior fence line baiting programs reduced interior rodent trap captures. However, fence line programs (more than 50 feet from structures) will have to be discontinued or replaced with traps or other classes of rodenticides because of this ruling.

As mentioned earlier, the rodenticide label changes are not immediate. However, as you make annual pest management program reviews in 2009, consider these pending label changes. If you need assistance regarding program options, contact Copesan for support.

### **More on the ruling**

You can read more about EPA's decision on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/reregistration/rodenticides>.

## 24/7 pest management

David Sexton, Technical Director, Gregory Pest Prevention, Greenville, South Carolina

**M**any food plants and food manufacturing facilities used to run six days a week with one day off for maintenance. With increased demand for their products, many facilities are now operating 24 hours a day and seven days a week, or 24/7.

While this schedule is good for business, it's not good for preventing a multitude of pest infestations. That's because pests are also poised for plant invasion 24/7, and time needs to be set aside regularly for preventative and early remedial pest management treatments.

So how do integrated pest management (IPM) specialists keep pests at bay in this 24/7 environment when they can't do preventative treatments during the plant's non-existent downtime?

Three key factors become critical for pest management in 24/7 facilities:

- Increased inspection and monitoring
- Detailed documentation of inspections
- Strong communication between the IPM specialist and the facility's contact person

**Increased inspection and monitoring.** When a production line is running 24/7 without a scheduled

shut down, pest infestations could explode if not detected early and appropriate measures aren't taken.

Typically in plants that regularly shut down, IPM specialists can get underneath the production lines with their inspection tools and probe for pests. They can open equipment and check for hidden pests. They can also use tools like a preventative baiting program, where they apply gel baits to cracks and crevices, or flushing agents for roaches.

But when a plant is in production, IPM specialists are restricted from working in production areas, as well as applying pest management materials, while the food plant is operating and foods are exposed.

This means when plants are running on a 24/7 work schedule, IPM specialists must rely more on detailed inspections and extensive monitoring on the perimeter of production areas.

In this scenario, they also have to rely heavily on mechanical control measures, such as vacuums, glue boards, traps, and other non-pesticide treatments. This creates a situation where pests could get out of hand at a faster pace if the production areas aren't frequently monitored and inspected.

**Detailed documentation of inspections.** When inspecting the facility, IPM specialists need to thoroughly document any pests found in the facility or other activities in the plant that are conducive to pests, such as structural sanitation issues.

Since many preventative measures can't be performed in a 24/7 environment, IPM specialists need to have even more descriptive and detailed documentation than usual so pest problems can be addressed as quickly as possible.

**Strong communication.** When a pest is detected, timely control is critical. A pest localized in one area could quickly grow and spread throughout a plant if necessary treatment measures are not completed.

That's why good communication between the IPM specialist and the facility contact person is essential in resolving any problems that arise. Regular communication between the two will provide frequent updates on pest activity in the plant and help to establish a good relationship. Then when pest issues arise, the two can work together to quickly schedule a section of the plant for treatment before the pest problem escalates to a plant-wide infestation.

...Continues on page 5

**24/7 help**

Overall, the better the inspection and monitoring, the better the communication, and the

better the documentation, the faster pest problems can be resolved – or averted – in a 24/7 facility.

For help in managing pests in your 24/7 facility, contact Copesan or your local Copesan Service Center.

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## **Pharmaceutical pest prevention**

By Jennifer Dacey, Quality Control Specialist, Waltham Services, New London

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**K**eeping any facility pest-free is important, but at a pharmaceutical company, it's critical. That's because pests could cause a major public health hazard if they contaminate vaccines or medications. So how do integrated pest management (IPM) specialists handle the daunting task of keeping pharmaceutical facilities pest-free?

They focus on IPM. If the problem can be solved or prevented by using techniques such as exclusion, sanitation, or simply adjusting the landscape, that is the preferable long-term approach because it reduces the short-term need to use pesticides.

The best line of defense is to prevent pests from entering the building in the first place by creating a protective exterior cordon. To do this, IPM specialists and their clients strive to eliminate entry points by removing potential pest harborage, removing anything that may attract pests, properly placing exterior lighting, using exterior rodent bait stations, and using air curtains in receiving areas.

On the interior, IPM special-

ists will place insect light traps on the interior of entrance ways and throughout the facility, use non-chemical multiple catch traps on each side of interior doors to prevent rodents from going deeper in the building, install glue boards to monitor for crawling insects, and remind their clients to carefully inspect deliveries to ensure pests aren't introduced via incoming equipment, materials, ingredients, or transportation vehicles. Thorough inspections are conducted on a regular basis to monitor for any new or potential problems.

### **FDA monitoring**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) also conducts frequent and meticulous inspection of pharmaceutical facilities. If a pest problem is discovered, the inspector can shut down the facility to protect the integrity of the production process.

So while maintaining a pest-free facility that meets the high FDA standards may seem like a daunting task, in many respects it is made easier due to the willingness of pharmaceutical companies to be proactive in prevention.

Since their number one priority is making sure their product remains sterile, many facilities implement their own additional procedures and protocols. These could include requiring people entering specific areas of the facility to stand in a wind room where high pressure air blows off any debris; to wear shoe covers, hair nets, safety goggles, or a protective suit; or even to wash their vehicle tires before entering the site.

### **Meticulous recordkeeping**

The FDA also requires IPM specialists to provide detailed recordkeeping. This comprehensive documentation must include:

- **Type of application and target pest.** The type of application must follow the label directions and precautions. For example, if the label specifies that the pest management material must be applied to cracks and crevices indoors to control cockroaches, then the documentation should be detailed enough to show compliance. A hard copy of up-to-date MSDS sheets and labels must be maintained in the logbook.

....Continues on page 6

## Pharmaceutical pest prevention ... continued from page 4

• **Pest activity.** This includes the location and type of pest activity, whether droppings, gnawing, or burrowing were discovered, or if insects were found on monitors or in light traps.

• **Structural and sanitation deficiencies.** This includes areas with doors that need rodent proofing, holes or cracks that need sealing, and locations where standing water, spillage, debris, or clutter is present.

All notations must be documented on the service ticket.

Electronic recordkeeping is invaluable in these facilities. By using RapidTrax™ (Copesan's proprietary electronic documentation and reporting system), IPM specialists can store all of the data.

This information can then be used to create trending reports to determine areas of high activity in the facility and see if these areas coincide with the structural or sanitation deficiencies noted.

It can also be used to create various other types of reports, such as chemical usage. Some facilities

require that each piece of equipment be physically dated (either with a date sticker or a punch card). These dates must match the inspection dates listed on the service ticket.

### Sense of security

The next time you need a shot or a prescription, you'll be reassured to know that the FDA and IPM specialists have taken extensive safety measures to make sure your vaccinations and medications are contamination free.

Information in this publication was researched and prepared by highly regarded experts within the pest management industry who are part of the Copesan Partnership. Copesan has more technical expertise located throughout North America than any other pest management firm. The IPM Update is a small sampling of the knowledge and expertise we provide to our clients. Information in this newsletter is copyright protected and may not be reprinted without permission.

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