

A SUPPLEMENT TO

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2023

TERMITE BATTLES

Control Solutions Inc.T2

Corteva AgriscienceT3

SPECIAL ADVERTORIAL INSERT

Northwest Exterminating makes 'special deliveries' for termites

Taurus Dry and the Precision Delivery System handle tough infestation cases

When battling termites, pest management firms sometimes run across stubborn cases that require retreatments. It's frustrating for both customers and technicians.

Scott Eubanks – vice president of industry relations at Northwest Exterminating, a Rollins Inc. brand, in Marietta, Ga. – has found a troubleshooting tool for those tough jobs: Taurus Dry, paired with the Precision Delivery System (PDS), by Control Solutions Inc. (CSI).



Scott Eubanks

"Taurus Dry and the PDS have enabled us to knock out retreats where you cannot properly treat with liquids," Eubanks says. "And we can do it less intrusively."

Taurus Dry is a powder with the active ingredient fipronil, which disrupts a termite's central nervous system when ingested. In addition to consuming the product, termite workers share it with others in the colony.

The PDS allows technicians to send Taurus Dry into hard-to-reach nests through termite galleries, shelter tubes or anywhere in which air can flow.

Eubanks recalls a customer who had termites in their hardwood floors. Instead of drilling through and damaging the floor to reach the nest, which the customer wouldn't

prefer, Northwest Exterminating was able to apply Taurus Dry to termite galleries, thanks to the PDS.

"The openings were already there, so we didn't have to create new ones," Eubanks says. "The customer eventually pulled up the floor, and when they did, the termites were gone."

Eubanks says the key to Taurus Dry's effectiveness is the PDS. The device is a handheld applicator that operates on batteries. Technicians pull back the button for a certain number of seconds and a precise amount of Taurus Dry emerges.

"It's so much easier to use, and you know exactly how much product you're using," Eubanks says. "The PDS keeps you from wasting product."

Eubanks says Taurus Dry with the PDS has become a regular part of Northwest Exterminating's non-fumigation Drywood termite treatments. Northwest, which operates in six states, recently acquired a few Florida pest management companies. Taurus Dry with the PDS has become part of their treatment programs, too.

Meanwhile, CSI is always available if Eubanks needs assistance.

"They educate you and get you information you need about the product and how to apply it," Eubanks says. "Their sales reps are very knowledgeable."

Termite Battle

COMPANY: Northwest Exterminating
BATTLEFIELD: 75 percent residential / 25 percent commercial

WAR STORY: When it comes to termite activity, Georgia is one of the hottest states in the nation, says Scott Eubanks, vice president of industry relations with Northwest Exterminating in Marietta, Ga. In fact, termite treatments represent half of Northwest's business. When inspecting a home with a termite infestation, Northwest first considers the home's construction, which offers clues to how the insects are entering. A house with a slab foundation, for example, has pipes and joints through which termites can access the interior. Also, if the homeowner recently built an addition, like a bay window, termites might find a point of entry if the addition wasn't sealed tightly. In any case, for hard-to-reach underground nests, Northwest breaks out Taurus Dry and its Precision Delivery System. Taurus Dry with PDS also allows technicians to attack indoor areas. The pests then carry the product back to the colony.

WEAPON OF CHOICE

PROVEN SOLUTION: Taurus Dry and the Precision Delivery System by Control Solutions Inc.

WEBSITE: CSI-pds.com/taurus-dry



Point of no termite return

The Sentricon system eliminates callbacks for one New Jersey pest management firm

Callbacks for termite infestations can run into serious dollars for pest management firms utilizing conventional chemical applications. Retreatments might involve reopening barrier trenches around a home or drilling new holes in concrete floors, then applying additional product.

Hanover, N.J.-based Dial Environmental has found a product that has eliminated callbacks entirely: the Sentricon system, a termite bait solution from Corteva Agriscience.

"I have not known of any callbacks from Sentricon customers who have had active swarms of termites," says Dial Technical



Jonathan Schoppe

Director Jonathan Schoppe, ACE. "And we have never had to install new Sentricon stations because the old ones weren't working. It has simply never happened."

The Sentricon system is relatively easy to implement. Outside, in-ground bait stations are installed around a home's perimeter. The tops of the stations are flush to the ground, so they are visible and accessible, but unobtrusive. Inside the home, above-ground stations called Recruit AGs are placed where termites are active.

The bait, which Corteva has proven through testing that termites find tastier than wood, contains the active ingredient noviflumuron. When ingested, the product disrupts



the termites' molting process, which for them is deadly.

The bait stations don't attract termites, but workers find them as they search for food, then they carry the bait back to the colony. In this way, Sentricon exploits termites' natural foraging behavior.

Dial first tried Sentricon in 1999. The company was drawn to the Sentricon system because it didn't require expensive drilling, and it was an environmentally-responsible product. The original Sentricon system is the only termite product to win the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Green Chemistry Challenge award.

Before Sentricon, Dial annually revisited troubled accounts that were experiencing new termite swarms. With Sentricon, those swarms stopped almost immediately, as did the callbacks.

Today, Dial uses Sentricon as its standalone solution for termite control and prevention. Sentricon saves time and labor compared to other products because drilling and

Termite Battle

COMPANY: Dial Environmental

BATTLEFIELD: 95 percent residential / 5 percent commercial

WAR STORY: Dial Environmental Technical Director Jonathan Schoppe, ACE, says he will never forget the worst termite infestation he ever saw inside a home. Termites were openly swarming in five locations on the New Jersey property. The landlord had ignored the problem for six years, and called Dial only after the tenant threatened to move out. To address the situation, Dial technicians first vacuumed up dead termites. Then they placed 12 Sentricon above-ground bait stations, called Recruit AGs, where the termites were active. After two weeks, the Dial team noticed considerable feeding from the stations, and after 30 days, termites had eaten or removed all the bait from several stations. Eight months later, most of the bait stations were empty. "If not for the AGs, it would have taken a year or more to solve the problem, just with inground stations outside," Schoppe says. "Using the AGs sped up the process by months, maybe even years."

WEAPON OF CHOICE

PROVEN SOLUTION: Sentricon by Corteva Agriscience

WEBSITE: Sentricon.com

dredging aren't necessary, Schoppe says, noting that it's also easy to train technicians how to use the system.

In one case, Dial installed hundreds of Sentricon stations around an apartment complex, where 60 of 63 buildings were damaged by termites.

"After installing Sentricon, within one full year, the termites became inactive in those buildings," Schoppe says. "It was the largest and most dramatic 'wow' moment we ever experienced with Sentricon."

Big-headed ants

Pheidole spp.

Many ant experts agree that this genus is one of the most abundant and diverse groups of ants in the world. More than 1,000 species have been identified, and it is assumed that more species are yet to be officially discovered.

In the U.S., where there are approximately 74 species, big-headed ants are found mostly in the warm and dry regions of the South, particularly the

Southwest. Nests are found in exposed soil or under cover, and in rotting wood. They rarely nest indoors but may invade homes to forage for food. They prefer meats, grease and breads. These reddish-brown ants are considered scavengers and feed on insects, seeds and honeydew. They can be distinguished from similar-looking species by the presence of 12 segments in their antennae, with three-segmented antennal clubs.

Big-headed ant populations can be treated with an appropriate mix of liquid and granular baits and liquid and dust insecticides, depending on colony locations. ▼



Most *Pheidole* species' worker castes are dimorphic, which means they are two different sizes. A few species are trimorphic, which means they have a supermajor worker caste that can measure up to 0.31 inch (8 millimeters).

Big-headed ant soldiers, measuring 0.08 to 0.20 inch (2 millimeters to 5 millimeters), are major workers that serve strictly a defensive function. They have exceptionally large heads in relation to their body size, hence the common name. By contrast, the scientific name originates from the Greek *pheid*, which means "sparing" or "thrifty" and likely refers to their penchant for seed-storing. Despite looking fierce, they tend to flee at the first sign of danger.

Big-headed ant minor workers, measuring 0.06 to 0.16 inch (1.5 millimeters to 4 millimeters), have a slender body shape and do not have enlarged heads. They can be recognized by the shape of their heads, which narrow abruptly behind the eyes.

To form new colonies, mating flights typically form in the summer. Multiple queens may form a new colony, but in most cases, one queen eventually dominates, killing the other queens. **PMP**

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Truman's Scientific Guide to Pest Management Operations, Seventh Edition, available for purchase at [MyPMP.net/shop](https://www.mypmp.net/shop)



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Are you the best in the nest?

❶ True or False: The European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) and feral pigeon (*Columba livia domestica*) are not protected under the U.S. Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

❷ True or False: The incubation period for barn swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) is 12 to 17 days.

❸ True or False: Pigeons depend on humans to provide food, water and roosting sites.

❹ True or False: Egg addling (shaking the eggs to stop the embryo development) is an approved method of pest management for Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*).



❺ True or False: Urban pest birds are frequently associated with more than 50 kinds of ectoparasites.

❻ True or False: The European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) can lay two to eight eggs that hatch in 11 to 14 days.

❼ What is the egg incubation period of the pigeon (*Columba livia domestica*), and how many eggs do they typically have per clutch?

- a. 22 to 28 days/one to two eggs
- b. 12 to 19 days/two to four eggs
- c. 18 to 26 days/two to four eggs
- d. 17 to 19 days/one to two eggs

❽ True or False: A barn swallow will pick up and eat small pebbles, eggshells or oyster shells because they aid in digestion.

❿ What is the typical body length of an adult house sparrow?

- a. 5 to 6 inches
- b. 6 to 7 inches
- c. 6 to 8 inches
- d. 7 to 9 inches

⓫ True or False: Barn swallow nests with eggs or chicks inside can be destroyed without a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Editor's Note: Questions for this month's test were contributed by Dr. Hamilton Allen, BCE; Foster Brusca; and Doug Foster. Want to know how you did? The answers are listed at the bottom of the page.

TECH TEST TIDBIT

Please don't feed the pigeons

The feral pigeon is a descendant of the domestic pigeon (*Columba livia domestica*), also known as the rock dove or rock pigeon. Because they live in urban environments, their natural feeding habits of seed and fruits changed. Instead, they forage for food humans provide or leave behind. Eliminating their food supply by controlling garbage and litter helps reduce feral pigeon populations. Officials in Venice, Italy, famously prohibit visitors from feeding pigeons. The city's ban has been in place since 1997, with a fine of 500 euros or more for lawbreakers.

❶ True, ❷ True, ❸ True, ❹ True, ❺ True, ❻ True, ❼ a, ❽ d, ❿ a, ⓫ True, ❹ True, ❺ True, ❻ True, ❼ False

Answers to February Tech Test



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