

PLANT DISEASE AND INSECT ADVISORY



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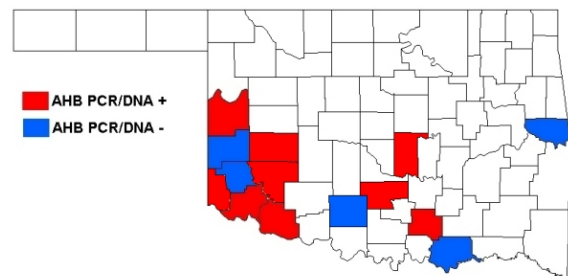
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Website: <http://entopl.okstate.edu/Pddl/advisory.htm>

Oct 15, 2004

Africanized Honey Bee Update Richard Grantham, Entomologist-Dir., PDIDL and Phil Mulder, Extension Entomologist

Since the last update, five new counties have been added to the list of confirmed locations with AHB (see map at right). We are currently processing a few more samples and those results will be released when available. Be sure to bookmark the AHB website (<http://entopl.okstate.edu/ahb/index.html>) so you can stay up to date on the latest statewide distribution.



There have been some recent questions concerning who homeowners should call if they suspect AHB activity in their area. While it is important for you to know in advance of a report in your county, ODAFF currently has the ultimate responsibility for collecting and eradicating suspect colonies. Contact Doug Dear at (405) 205-2699 for assistance.

What Are Those Mystery Mounds In Your Yard? Tom A. Royer, Extension Entomologist



The rains we have received over the last few days have brought welcome relief to our lawns, as well as some unwelcome mound-building by a secretive insect called the short-tailed cricket. These crickets look similar to the common field cricket, but they have a short ovipositor (thus the name short-tailed cricket), and have small wings as adults.

Short-tailed crickets live in burrows below the turf, and rarely leave them except at night to feed or mate. Adult females begin to lay eggs in late spring or early summer. The eggs hatch, and the nymphs live in the same burrow until they molt 3-5 times (become teenagers). This occurs around mid to late summer. Then they strike out on their own to construct their own burrow. As they continue to grow, they make their burrows bigger

and dig them deeper into the soil. You can tell how many short-tailed crickets are in you lawn because each mound contains only one cricket.

These crickets feed on grass, weeds and pine seedlings, but the damage they cause to turf is negligible, with the exception of their visible mounds. Their burrows tend to show up beginning in October through November as the crickets become bigger. They will re-excavate the mounds each time it rains.

We typically don't recommend controlling them because they don't cause any serious damage to the turf. Some people don't like the visible mounds in their lawns, which will reappear each time it rains. An insecticide that is registered for late summer or fall control of white grubs and other soil insects will reduce short-tailed crickets.

Dr. Richard Grantham
Director, Plant Disease and Insect Diagnostic Laboratory

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