

"TERMITE" TERRY'S INSIDER INFORMATION

TOP SECRET

October 2016



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Inside This Issue...

- Creepy New Spider 1
- Rave Review! 2
- Grapevine Moth Is Eradicated! 2
- President's Economic Stimulus 3
- Fun Facts About Halloween! 3
- Rodents Chewing Up Toyota Wiring 4

Creepy New Spider Is Taking Over Orange County

A *creepy* new spider, called the Brown Widow, has moved in and is *spooking* out a lot of people in Orange County. Until about ten years ago, most people living here hadn't even heard of a brown widow spider. Now, this close relative of the black widow can be found almost everywhere in our area. Many homeowners are concerned, wondering if all those messy spiderwebs are home to a dangerous pest. Here is some information to help you deal with the new spider in town.

What Should You Know About Brown Widow Spiders?

Since it is related to the deadly black widow spider, the question on everyone's mind about brown widows is "Are they poisonous?" Yes, the brown widow spider is poisonous and its venom, drop for drop, is just as potent as the black widow's. However, a brown widow spider does not inject very much venom during a bite and that is why it is far less dangerous than a black widow. To minimize encounters with these spiders and to reduce the amount of spiderwebs around your home, regular management is needed.

Some entomologists suspect that the brown widow evolved in Africa, while others think it's from South America. Once this spider found its way to North America, it was restricted to the Florida peninsula for decades. In 2003, it was spotted in Torrance, California. Soon after

that, more and more of them were found in Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego counties.

There are two widow spiders in California: the western black widow and the brown widow. These spiders generally prefer to live in cluttered outdoor areas and garages where they can be left undisturbed. They have similar shaped bodies and both construct their cobwebs in a very haphazard way.

The western black widow is a native species and can be found throughout California. A mature female is about a half inch long, shiny black in color and has a red hour glass pattern on its underside. The black widow is the spider that poses the greatest threat to humans in the Western United States.

Our newcomer, the brown widow, is about the same size but has a mottled collection of tan, brown and gray colors. It also has an orange hour glass on its underside.

The easiest way to identify which type of spider you're dealing with is to examine the egg sacs. The brown widow's egg sac is light yellow in color and has multiple silk spicules projecting out from its surface. A black widow's egg sac is white and looks similar to a small cotton ball.

Researchers say brown widows may be displacing the black widow in some urban habitats. This is probably good news for residents because there are very few reports of brown widows biting humans.

(turn the page)

80 Years Ago . . .

On October 9, 1936, the Boulder Dam (now the Hoover Dam) went fully online and began generating electricity. Today, it supplies power to 1.3 million homes in Arizona, California and Nevada.

Celebrating Ray Kroc's Birthday!

"When you're green, you're growing. When you're ripe, you rot."

Ray Kroc, the founder of McDonald's Restaurants
Born October 5, 1902

Rave Review!

“My name is Dan Fuson, I am a retired police officer. I have known Terry for over twenty years now, on a Professional as well as a social basis (fellow musicians). I am fortunate to be able to call him a friend. I am equally fortunate to have been able to call on him on a professional basis.

I have used Terry on four different occasions over the years at my home. He was always professional, helpful, and fast and did excellent work. As far as his staff was concerned, they went beyond what my needs called for. The staff’s demeanor and professionalism was equal to Terry’s. They are fast, efficient and neat. They were concerned with the homeowner being able to return home as soon as it was safe to occupy.

This time, Terry coordinated with the roofers and Gas Company, so I had less to do to prepare for the fumigation.

I feel Terry gives you a good value for your dollar. I have had him do eave repairs, fumigation and subterranean termites. Terry and his company have taken care of me 100%. Anything I needed he took care within his profession expertise.

Terry has fair pricing and the workmanship is excellent. I highly recommend Terry. You may call me if you have any questions.”

Dan Fuson
Westminster

What Can You Do To Control Spiders?

1. **Reduce clutter** on the inside and around the outside of your home. By doing this, you’ll eliminate places for spiders to live and breed.
2. **Use a vacuum cleaner** to remove spiders, their egg sacs and webs. Pay extra attention to areas around windows, corners of rooms, storage areas and other seldom used areas.
3. **Clean out your garage.** Regular use of a vacuum cleaner or broom can go a long way in keeping your garage free of spiders. Seasonal items, such as clothing or Christmas decorations, should be stored in boxes that can be taped up or in sealed plastic bags. When you’re cleaning up clutter in the garage, it is always a good idea to wear gloves to avoid accidental bites.
4. **Knock down major cobwebs** on the outside of your home. You should also pay special attention to children’s toys and patio furniture. If spiders don’t have webs, they can’t catch anything and this will help encourage them to go elsewhere. This will also improve the appearance of your home.
5. **Keep plants and trees cut back** away from the exterior of your home. It is best to keep all plants about one to two feet away from exterior walls. Trees should be cut back about four feet from the house and no branches should be left hanging over the roof.
6. **Seal up holes, cracks and gaps** around your home to help keep pests out. Check door and window screens and repair or replace them if needed. Have outdoor lighting that is attracting flying insects? If possible, keep lighting fixtures off the walls and away from doors and windows. Special bug-resistant light bulbs may also help.
7. **Use household pest control products as a last resort.** While most pesticides are not all that

effective for direct control of spiders, they can be useful because they can help eliminate other pests that spiders eat. If you’re going to use any of these products, please follow all of the manufacturer’s instructions carefully.

These seven tips are simple, inexpensive and will make a big difference in protecting your family and pets from spiders. Do you have a spider problem that you need help with? **Call us at (949) 631-7348** and we’ll be happy to assist.

How The California Grape Industry Eradicated A Huge Pest Problem

When dealing with agricultural pest and disease issues, it is rare to hear success stories that include eradication, but that is what has just happened in California.

In 2009, massive numbers of “European grapevine moths” threatened crops valued at \$5.7 billion dollars, including wine and table grapes, berries and some stone fruits. This moth had previously never been seen on the North American continent.

Officials began studying the problem in 2010 and managed to trap over 100,000 adult male moths on more than 3,800 traps in Napa Valley alone. This pest was also found in other California regions, including the San Joaquin Valley, the North Coast, Central Coast and Nevada County.

No one knows how the grapevine moth got into the U.S. but thousands of them could be seen flying around vineyards during the year of 2010. Grapes infested with these pests were turning black and when you closely examined this damaged fruit, you could see moth larvae living inside. 52,170 acres of California vineyards had to be put under

quarantine.

Researchers from the U.S., Europe and South America began their investigation to find a solution for this serious problem.

These researchers encouraged growers to start by disposing of infested fruit. This meant that some growers had to destroy their entire crop and dump tons of fruit.

The next step was to have the growers install special traps laced with moth-attracting pheromones. Their goal was to catch as many male moths as possible so they could be stopped from reproducing.

Lastly, experts recommended that growers use low-risk pesticides on their crops, such as insect growth regulators (these act as birth control for insects), spinosins (derived from a naturally occurring organisms) and *Bacillus thuringiensis* (a microbe naturally found in soil).

A year later, trap counts dropped to only 113 moths caught in the entire year of 2011. Trap counts later dropped to 77 in 2012. Only 40 were caught in 2013 and none of these insects have been found in traps since 2014!

Seven years and 65 million dollars later, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has declared the eradication of the grapevine moth a success.

"This is a very significant accomplishment," said Tony Linegar, the agricultural commissioner for Sonoma County. "Anytime you propose to eradicate an insect from the continent, that is a very lofty goal."



President's Economic Stimulus

The candidates are debating and this election looks like it is going to go down to the wire. President Termite Terry is sticking with his Economic Stimulus Plan because the voters know he's prepared to deliver on his promise to help improve our nation's economy.

Here are just a few of your fellow citizens who have benefited from his Economic Stimulus Plan:

- Rene Larios of Santa Ana gets a gas card for referring Patricia Bogne of Santa Ana.
- Donna Jacobs of Coto de Caza recommended our services to Jennifer Ricker of Costa Mesa.
- James Ackerman of Costa Mesa referred us to Barney and Rachel Vergilio of Fountain Valley.
- Craig Gilbert of Westminster gets a gas card for referring us to Mark Lowe of Westminster.
- Linda Peterson of Silverado Canyon referred us to Spencer Li of Silverado Canyon.

The President's plan is easy! All you have to do is simply refer us to someone who needs a termite treatment, wood repairs or a monthly pest control service. And, if they hire us, we'll send you a **\$50.00 Gas Card**. That is real economic stimulation you can bank on!



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Fun Facts About Halloween!

Halloween is on Monday, October 31st and here are some fun facts to help you get into the spirit:

- Trick-or-treating evolved from the ancient Celtic tradition of putting out treats and food to placate who roamed the streets at Samhain, a sacred festival that marked the end of the Celtic calendar year.
- 50% of kids prefer chocolate candy for Halloween. 24% prefer non-chocolate candy and 10% prefer gum.
- The first Jack O'Lanterns were actually made from turnips.
- There is a \$1,000 fine for using or selling Silly-String in Hollywood on Halloween!!
- Halloween and the candy industry supposedly influenced Daylight Savings time. At the 1985 hearings on Daylight Savings Time, they put candy pumpkins on the seat of every senator.
- The word "witch" comes from the Old English *wicce*, meaning "wise woman."
- Donald Trump costumes and Hillary Clinton wigs sold out well before Halloween in 2015.
- Norm Craven holds the record for the largest pumpkin at 836 pounds.
- The movie "Halloween" was made on a very limited budget and they had to use the cheapest mask they could find for the character Michael Myers, which turned out to be a William Shatner Star Trek mask. Mr. Shatner said he was honored.
- Americans spend about \$6 billion a year for Halloween.
- A full moon on Halloween is extremely rare and won't occur again until the year 2020.
- Pumpkins also come in white, blue and green – you might use one of these for a monster carving!

It is time for some fun. Have a happy and safe Halloween!

A FREE Monthly Newsletter for Friends and Clients of:

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I Guarantee It."**

Rodents Are Chewing Up The Wiring In Toyotas

A class action lawsuit was recently filed in Southern California, alleging that rodents are chewing and eating electrical car wiring in 2012 to 1016 model year Toyota vehicles.

In the lawsuit, they are claiming that these vehicles are defective in material or workmanship in that their electrical wiring is coated with soy-based insulation. Toyota has recently started using this type of wire insulation that is supposed to be more environmentally friendly and less expensive than traditional petroleum-based electrical insulation.

The Plaintiff in this case, who owns a 2012 Toyota Tundra, has had his truck's soy-based wiring chewed through on three separate occasions. The first incident occurred when his truck had less than 4,000 miles on it. Eight months later, he suffered a similar fate, with the wiring harness and ground straps being chewed through. This caused the lights on his dashboard to light up like a Christmas tree! Twelve months after that, the rodents chewed up his wiring again.

On each occasion, Toyota refused to repair or replace the wiring under warranty and the Plaintiff had to pay for the repairs. When the Plaintiff complained to Toyota, he was told that they did not consider this to be a defect or issue that was covered by the warranty.

Toyota is not the only automaker experiencing this problem with wiring. A similar type of lawsuit was filed against Honda Motor Corporation, earlier this year.

Personally, I think that Honda and Toyota build some very good cars and trucks and it is good that they are trying to go green and save a few bucks. But, this may not be the right way to do it. Let's hope they solve this wiring problem, quickly.



"Termite" Terry Singleton