BMSB From the Perspective of an Urban PCO

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Stink bugs gaining attention in the urban environment
Increase in BMSB Activity

Total # of Jobs by Year

Data Source: Cooper Pest Solutions
What’s the Big Deal
They’re Just a Nuisance, Right?
BMSB is Different Than Other Over-wintering Pests!

• Enter earlier and leave later than other over-wintering pests
• Active throughout entire winter
  – Get into people’s stuff - clothes, bed sheets, in boxes, amongst piles of papers, etc.. (becomes infuriating)
  – Very active at night and attracted to lights (disruptive & creates anxiety)
  – Very problematic in sensitive environments (i.e. hospitals, FDA & USDA regulated facilities, etc.)
Typical Industry Response

Repeated treatment indoors where clients seeing bugs!

End Result:
Unnecessary Exposure To Pesticides With Little to No Benefit!
Cooper Pest approached BMSB the same as other over-wintering pests

Exterior
• Recommend sealing gaps around windows, flashing...
• Treatments made around roof flashing, window frames, weep holes (lift work often required)
Non chemical approach

- Sealing gaps around windows, outlets, etc...
- Vacuuming by technician at time of service
- Light traps in drop ceilings
- Glue boards in drop ceiling by light fixtures
Results have generally been poor for BMSB. Believe this was largely a “Timing” Issue!
2008’ Cooperative Effort with Rutgers University

Beat Sampling

Pheromone Traps
Total Trap Catch Bldg 5

Data: Courtesy of Dr. George Hamilton
Want to be able to predict & prevent pest entry based upon relationships between buildings and host plants
BMSB Management on Residential Properties
Focus is on treatment of exterior points of entry
Interior: Treatment limited to attics
Feb/March 2010’
Customer Satisfaction Survey

“I was told this was only a reduction service and...”

Wow
“I haven’t seen any since the time of treatment.”

Good
“the #’s were significantly reduced I would pay for the service again.”

Poor
“I was disappointed in the level of reduction and would not pay for the service again.”

Fail
“I was completely dissatisfied, it was like you were never here.”
Customer Satisfaction (09’/10’)

- 88% Pleased With Results
- 65% Good
- 23% Pleased
- 12% Poor
- Fail

Contacted 72 Clients
30 responded to the survey
= 42% response rate
Summer 2010’ Rolled Out Residential Campaign

Treatments first two weeks of September
  – Set expectations at 90% reduction in activity compared to what they were accustomed to seeing
  – Provided an unlimited service plan if treatments provided before September 15th
Customer Satisfaction (10’/11’)

81% Pleased With Results

Contacted 220 Clients
123 responded to the survey
= 56% response rate
A Need For Research!

1. What attracts them to structures, i.e. color, size, shadows, compass direction, etc?
2. How far do they typically travel from host plants to structures for over-wintering (scope of concern)
3. What are the most effective methods for preventing entry into structures i.e. targeted applications to host plants, mass trapping, trap plantings, etc?
4. What triggers them to leave structures and is there another opportunity to control them at that time?
5. Insecticide studies i.e. efficacy, residual lifespan, etc.
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