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STINGING AND BITING PESTS

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1. DEER FLY: Deer flies look like small, green-eyed horse flies. The eggs are laid and larvae develop in marshy areas. The female fly has a very painful bite.

2. AMERICAN DOG TICK: Ticks are more closely related to spiders than they are to insects. Most species of ticks are found in areas with brushy vegetation. They may be carried into the yard or house by pets that run in the brush. After mating, the female drops to the ground and deposits her eggs on or near the soil. Each female will lay from 3,000 to 6,000 eggs. The eggs hatch into six-legged larvae which attach themselves to animals to feed. After feeding, the larvae drop to the ground, shed their skin and change into nymphs. The nymphs then feed on animals, drop to the ground and shed their skin and become adults. Two or three years may be required to complete the life cycle. The *brown dog tick* feeds only on dogs. Between feeding periods they drop off the dog. They hide in cracks and crevices around the dog's sleeping area in the house or kennel. Brown dog ticks will breed the year round in houses. Both the American dog tick and brown dog tick are common in Nebraska.

3. MOSQUITO: There are many species of mosquitoes that are pests of man and animals. Some are disease carriers. Secondary infections may result from scratching mosquito bites. Three genera of mosquitoes are of major medical importance—*Anopheles*, *Aedes*, and *Culex*. Malaria is transmitted by species of the *Anopheles* genus. Yellow fever is transmitted by *Aedes aegypti*. Members of the *Culex* group are vectors of encephalitis. Larvae of mosquitoes live in water. Eggs of some species are laid on the surface of the water and others on ground subject to flooding. The larvae that hatch from the eggs are called "wigglers" and are barely visible to the naked eye. The larvae feed and grow to about ¼" in length in 4 to 10 days. When growth is completed the mature larvae change to the pupal stage or "tumblers." Eventually the adult emerges from the pupal case and flies away.

4. WHEEL BUG: The wheel bug attracts attention because of the cogwheel-like crest on the back. This insect is beneficial because it feeds on other insects. It does not bite people readily, but when it does the bite is painful.

5. BROWN RECLUSE SPIDER: Brown recluse spiders live in and around boxes, stored clothing, behind dressers and chests, and in basements, attics and garages. The body color of the brown recluse spider ranges from light tan to

chocolate brown. The dark, fiddle-shaped design on the back serves to separate it from other Nebraska house spiders. They are shy and are not normally seen in the open. They are not aggressive, but will bite when trapped in clothing. The bite of a brown recluse spider may not be noticed immediately. After two or three hours a stinging sensation may be felt, followed by intense pain. A blister forms around the bite and a larger area of the flesh becomes swollen. The victim may become restless, feverish, and have trouble sleeping. The venom injected by the spider destroys the tissue around the bite. This tissue sloughs off, resulting in a scar which may require a skin graft. Healing of the destroyed tissue is slow and may take six to eight weeks or longer.

6. BLACK WIDOW SPIDER: The shiny black body with a triangular or hourglass red spot or spots on the underside identifies the black widow spider. This spider is commonly found out-of-doors. They may be found in trash, piles of rubble, privies, sheds, garages, crawl spaces, cellars and basements. Black widow spiders are not aggressive, but will bite when provoked. The bite of a black widow spider feels like a pin prick followed by a burning sensation. Symptoms include abdominal cramps and usually last one or two days.

7. IO MOTH LARVA: This larva is representative of those caterpillars that have stinging hairs. This species is not common in the state.

8. YELLOW JACKET: Yellow jackets make paper nests, usually underground, in and under logs, or around the base of stumps. They will attack intruders when the colony is threatened. Several other types of wasps, including hornets and mud daubers, nest above ground and can also sting. The sting of these insects causes a burning sensation and swelling which may last for several hours.

9. SWEAT BEE: Sweat bees are solitary insects common around flowers where they collect pollen and nectar. They are attracted to perspiration and will sometimes sting. The pain is usually of short duration.

10. HONEY BEE: Honey bees will attack anything that threatens the colony. Individual bees die after using their sting, which tears out and remains in the wound. Remove sting promptly to reduce swelling and reaction.

11. SADDLEBACK CATERPILLAR: This insect is not known to occur in Nebraska.

STINGING AND BITING PESTS

For safe and effective use of insecticides, always identify the problem correctly.



1. Deer fly (sucks blood)



5. Brown recluse spider (poisonous bite)
and close-up of "fiddle-shaped" marking on back



8. Yellow jacket (stings)



2. American dog tick
(attaches and sucks blood)



6. Black widow spider (poisonous bite)



9. Sweat bee (stings)



3. Mosquito (sucks blood)



7. Io moth larva (stinging hairs)



10. Honey bee (stings)



4. Wheel bug (punctures skin)



11. Saddleback caterpillar (stinging hairs)