

Pest Control

N-3056



Shake-Up!

The abrupt dismissal of NPCA

Executive Vice President

Harvey Gold makes change

inevitable for the association and the industry.

An exclusive interview tells Gold's side of the story.

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competing with alternative food sources, such as food left out on kitchen counters.

An integral part of the inspection is a pre-baiting survey that enables the PCO to pinpoint where the ants are active. Once the species of ant has been identified and the PCO has some idea of its food preference, a survey bait, such as dilute honey or peanut butter on three-by-five cards, can be placed in various locations both inside and outside the structure (outdoor survey cards should be used only when the environment is conducive to foraging activity).

On the inside of the structure, window sills or electrical outlets are good locations, as are pipes and drains, sinks, counter tops, toilets and other sources of water. On the outside of the structure, survey cards should be placed near windows, around entrances and exits and incoming and outgoing plumbing lines.

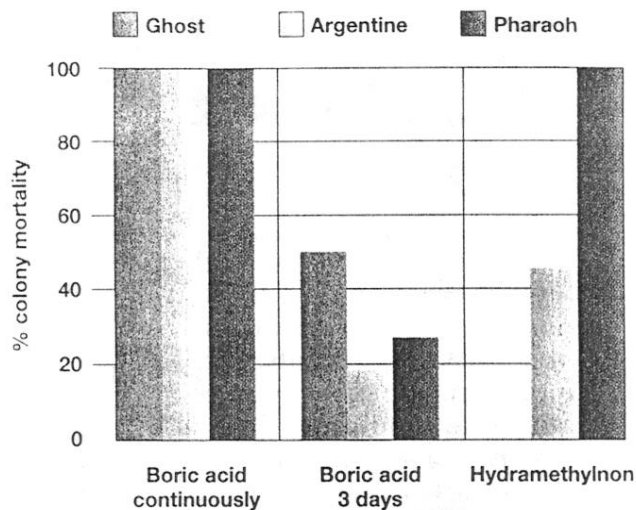
These baits should be left in place for an hour or two to give the ants enough time to find and recruit other

ants to these food sources. Then, the PCO should return and document where the ants are active for future placement of the toxic baits.

After the survey is finished and the PCO is ready to apply the toxic baits, he or she should make sure that the baits are fresh, by checking to see if the ants feed on them.

Follow-up visits after one or two days are important to be sure the ants don't feed long enough on a particular bait.

The ants should be given at least three days to feed on the baits (for boric acid baits more time is necessary) before initiating any sort of follow-up control program to get rid of the remaining ants. After three days, the ants should have had sufficient



A comparison of the percent mortality of colonies of ghost ants, Argentine ants and Pharaoh ants after 10 weeks exposure to boric acid and hydramethylnon baits.

time to forage and transfer the bait amongst their nest mates. The PCO should remember that many of the residual pesticides are repellent to ants so careful handling of the baits is necessary to prevent contamination. Baits should always be stored separately from other insecticides.

Ant Baits of the Future

A number of different ant baits are available for commercial use. However, the effectiveness of these baits against many of the urban pest ants has not been determined. This is due to the fact that only three kinds of ants, the red imported fire ant, Pharaoh ants and leaf-cutting ants have received the lion's share of research on ant control.

The use of Insect Growth Regulators (IGRs) in baits has been successful for the control of fire ants. IGRs work slowly, interfering with larval development, caste differentiation and reproduction of the queen. Consequently, the key to their success and acceptance has depended on education of the client so that he or she understands how these baits work as well as how long they take to be effective.

IGRs will probably soon be available for Pharaoh ants. Research by

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Fire ants engage in mass recruitment to food.