

Best Management Practice

Bark Scorpion

Background:

There are several species of scorpions in Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, and Southern California. The bark scorpion is one of the only species with a potentially lethal sting. Like most predators, scorpions tend to forage in distinct and separate territories, and return to the same area night after night. They may enter homes when their territory has been disrupted by construction, tree removal, etc.

Description:

Bark scorpions are smaller than most scorpions (1 to 2 inches long). Their color may vary from light tan to a darker golden brown. They are also the only scorpion to curl its tail to the side while at rest.

Bark scorpions like to climb on and hide under the bark of trees. They are common in riparian areas (mesquite, cottonwood, and sycamore groves). They feed at night and are found most commonly near irrigated areas, pools, in palm trees, wooden fences, and on the walls in homes.

Bark scorpions can climb walls and walk across ceilings. They can show up in bathtubs, sinks, and beds, from having fallen from the ceiling.

Bark scorpions are active when nighttime temperatures are above 77°F. They are less active during the hottest part of the summer, and are inactive during the winter when it is cold.

Management:

A thorough inspection is required to locate and seal all openings, cracks and crevices to prevent future entry by scorpions. Caulking material can be used to seal small cracks. Larger openings may need to be filled with steel wool or expanding foam products. Inspection of ceilings, attics, and rooms above the first floor should also be completed, as scorpions can climb may be found above ground-level.

Scorpions move into yards to feed on insects attracted to lights and moisture associated with human habitation. Scorpions hide during the day and can be found around and under rocks, bark, wood piles and other debris. Extensive use of landscape rock can create excellent scorpion harborages and are important areas to inspect. It is important to remove or treat these harborages in order to reduce the scorpion population.

Inside the structure:

- **Dusting or fogging of attic:** Use dusts or foggers labeled for scorpions in attics or drop ceilings. Dusts have a longer residual. Evidence of an infestation includes scorpion carcasses in light covers. In most drop ceilings, dusts will not be appropriate as the dust often falls or filters through spaces around tiles and lights.



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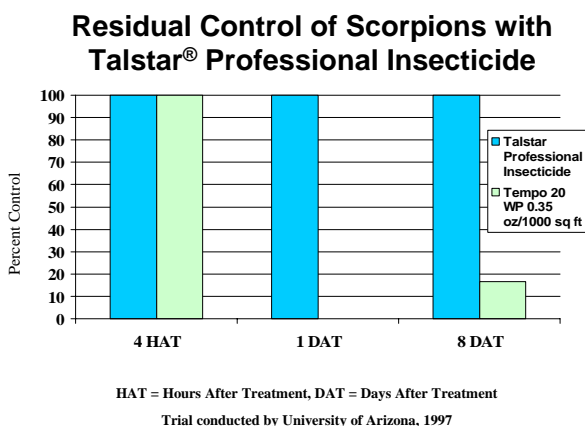
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- Use dust or fogger in crawl spaces or voids under structures.
- Use dust or crack and crevice aerosols in wall voids. Access walls via electrical outlets (always use caution to avoid shock) or any other penetration into voids.
- Set out glue traps along walls as monitoring and control devices.
- Spot treat corners and areas where scorpions can hide to help reduce their populations. Use Talstar® Professional insecticide in a 0.06% suspension (1 fl. oz per 1 gallon of water). Apply with a compressed air sprayer using a coarse, low-pressure spray not to exceed 25 PSI. Repeat applications should be limited to no more than once per seven days.

Once the inside is thoroughly treated with the above recommendations, protect the structure from reinfestation with an exterior barrier treatment.

Outside the structure:

- Perimeter treatment: Treat a 6 to 10 foot wide band out from the exterior perimeter of structure using Talstar® Professional insecticide at a rate of up to 0.06% suspension in sufficient water (up to 10 gallons per 1000 square feet) to ensure 1 fluid ounce of concentrate is applied per 1000 square feet. Focus on entry points around windows and doors, along foundations, along eaves (remember this scorpion is a very strong climber) or other potential points of entry. Also treat soil adjacent to structure in a 6 to 10 foot wide band around the house. When infestations are heavy or scorpions within structures have been difficult to control, treat the entire yard with 1 fl oz of concentrate applied per 1000 square feet.
- Identify areas near the structure where scorpions may congregate under piles of wood or debris, under stones and landscape timbers. Eliminate as many of these potential harborages as possible. Store firewood off of the ground.
- Incorporate exclusion techniques: caulking entry points, weather stripping around doors and windows, and using steel wool to plug weep holes.
- Treat the exterior perimeter with a 4 to 6 foot wide broadcast band of Talstar® PL Granular insecticide at a rate of 2.3 pounds per 1000 square feet. Place granules in flowerbeds and areas conducive to moisture and organic matter. This will reduce populations of insects and arachnids and therefore reduce the scorpions' food source. If scorpion pressure is high, treat the whole yard at a broadcast rate of 2.3 pounds per 1000 square feet.



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