TalstarOne™
MULTI–INSECTICIDE

FMC

It's Really Going Places.

Best Management Practices

Cat Fleas

Background: The two most common species of fleas that are pests of man and domestic pets are the cat flea, *Ctenocephalides felis,* and the dog flea, *Ctenocephalides canis.* Pest management professionals are much more likely to encounter the cat flea (regardless whether pet is a dog or cat) than the dog flea as the dog flea tends to infest wild hosts instead of domestic pets.

Description: Cat fleas are wingless small insects approximately 1/16 of an inch long. Their bodies are flattened from side to side, allowing for easy movement between fur and hair. Fleas are blood sucking external parasites of warm-blooded animals. Both male and female adult fleas feed exclusively on blood. Fleas have complete metamorphosis which means their larvae and adults look very different and they have a pupal stage. While the adults spend most of their lives on animals, the three other stages live elsewhere. The eggs, larva (small and wormlike) and pupae all develop in areas such as carpets, rugs, furniture, in floor cracks and crevices, along baseboards and other areas that the pet or pets frequent. On the outside of structures they develop in shaded areas that are frequented by the host. The eggs and pupal cases tend to be very resistant to pesticides, thus chemical control is targeted at the larval and adult stages.

Management: The first step in any management program is proper identification of the flea species. The next step involves communication with the customer. Cooperation with the homeowner is essential. Control of fleas is extremely difficult without proper sanitation, treatment of pet or pets, and preparation for the chemical treatment. Educating the customer on the importance of all of these factors is vital. Without the homeowners' cooperation, control will be challenging at best.

Inside the structure:

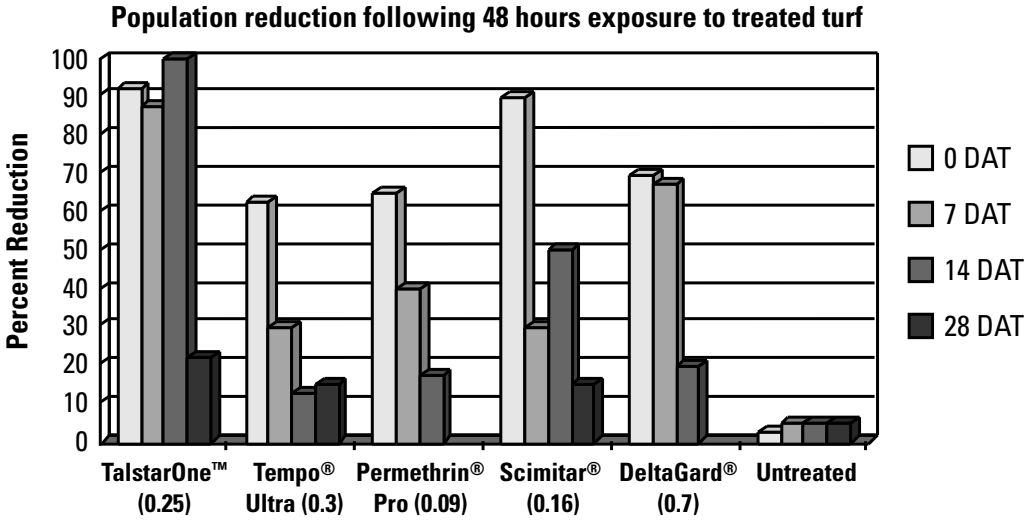
- Identify where flea infestation is originating: the household pet or wild animals (rats, mice, squirrels, raccoons or uninvited pets entering the structure). This will help the PMP concentrate the treatment where it is needed most.
- Cooperate and coordinate with homeowner to treat pet, and prepare house for insecticidal treatment. Pets should be treated by the veterinarian or homeowner and should not return to the house until it has been treated. Pets and people should be out of the house during application and until surfaces are dry after the chemical treatment.
- If the fleas are originating from a wild animal or animals in the attic or crawlspace, dusting or fogging of attic and or crawl is appropriate. Use dusts or foggers labeled for fleas in attics, crawl, or drop ceilings. Dusts tend to have a longer residual. In most drop ceilings, dusts will not be appropriate because the dust often falls or filters through spaces around tiles and lights.
- Before application the homeowner must vacuum carpets, floors, rugs, mattresses, cushions, wood or tile floors and any pet bedding. This will pick up eggs, some adult fleas, pupal cases, and blood feces (food for larva). Dispose of vacuum bag. In addition, wash or dispose of any pet bedding or beddings. These steps are essential in achieving control.
- If the fleas are originating from the pet, identify where the pet sleeps and spends most of its time because these areas will have the highest concentration of eggs, larvae and pupae.

- Prepare a 0.5% emulsion with 1.6 ounces of Dragnet® SFR termiticide/insecticide per gallon of water. Evenly apply the emulsion as a broadcast spray at a rate of 1 gallon/per 800 to 1600 square feet to infested areas.

Outside the structure:
Once the inside is thoroughly treated with the above recommendations, treat outside to control exterior populations as necessary. Treat the outside if the pet goes outside or the infestation is due to wild animals.

- Have the homeowner sweep porches, steps decks and any other hard surface. The lawn should be cut just prior to application.
- Flea larvae develop in the soil of shaded areas that are accessible to pets or other animals. Treat these areas by applying 2.3 lbs of Talstar® PL granular insecticide or Talstar® EZ granular insecticide per 1000 square feet. Talstar® PL granules will filter down to the soil surface to the eggs, larvae and pupae. Irrigate treated areas with 0.5 inches of water immediately after application.
- To control adult fleas, power spray infested areas of yard with a TalstarOne™ multi-insecticide solution in sufficient water (up to 10 gallons per 1000 square feet) to insure 1 fluid ounce of concentrate is applied per 1000 square feet. A surfactant added to the spray solution can greatly increase coverage and can aid in control.
- Using TalstarOne™ multi-insecticide and Talstar® PL granular insecticide or Talstar® EZ granular insecticide will ensure all life stages are controlled. TalstarOne™ will control the adults and Talstar® PL or Talstar® EZ will control the other development stages near the soil surface.

Control of Cat Flea *(Ctenocephalides felis)* in Fescue Turf with Talstar®



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