Horticulture

TERMITES OR ANTS

Both termites and ants are able to swarm and may have wings during part of their lives. Since these insects are close to the same size, people often misidentify flying ants as termites. Since flying ants do not attack wooden structures like termites, it is helpful to be able to tell the difference. Fortunately, there are several differences that can easily distinguish the two. For example, ants have a thin waist; the waist of a termite is thick. Also, ants' antennae are elbowed, while termites' are curved. Thirdly, termites have two pairs of wings that are of equal length. Ants also have two pairs of wings, but theirs are of unequal length. Homeowners who find signs of termite activity should shop for a reputable pest control firm.

Agriculture

This growing season may be a challenge for producers/applicators in more ways than one. With the critical need for N95 respirators for health care workers, it is anticipated that applicators may experience a shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) that will be available to use this growing season if not previously purchased. It is important to remember pesticides may not be applied without the label-required PPE. The Environmental Protection Agency has not issued any exemption or relaxation of the PPE label requirements, therefore some herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides you plan to use may require the use of N95 type respirators. If required PPE is unavailable for purchase, users may need to select alternative products or management methods. Research to see if there is a product available with the same active ingredient, whose formulation type reduces the need for respiratory protection. The other alternative is applicators are allowed to use more protective gear, so if you have a half or full-face respirator with a N95 filter that you have had fit-tested and received a medical evaluation to use this may be a good alternative. Story by: Frannie Miller, Pesticide Safety and IPM Coordinator, fmiller@ksu.edu

Family Consumer Sciences

Do you need to let groceries sit in the garage for a few days after bringing them home? If you do, it can have serious food safety implications for perishable foods such as milk and meat. There is some indication that COVID-19 can inactivate at room temperature. But all groceries would have to be contaminated to be an issue. Simply wash your hands after shopping, put away groceries safely, then wash your hands again.

Cleaning food packages or washing fresh produce with soap is NOT recommended. Fresh produce can be safely washed and scrubbed in plain water. After handling packages, simply wash your hands again before food preparation.

Wash reusable bags each time they are used, to keep them clean. Throw away plastic bags.

Plan ahead! Shop your kitchen first. Make a list to make your shopping trip efficient.

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4-H & Youth Development

If you have kids who are ages 5-18 now is the perfect opportunity to join the 4-H program! Jump on over to Butler Co 4-H Facebook page and take a look! Exciting things are happening despite the current Covid situation. While you can enroll in 4-H anytime, May 1st is the project enrollment deadline to be able to participate in the Butler County Fair. Don’t miss out on signing up for this wonderful organization and all it has to offer our youth! If you interested, please call our office at 316-321-9660. A positive youth experience is just what our youth need, especially now!