

# "TERMITE" TERRY'S INSIDER INFORMATION

**TOP SECRET**

April 2012



Happy Easter!

[www.termiteterry.com](http://www.termiteterry.com)



(949) 631-7348

"Home of Your Ironclad, Money-Back Guarantee"

## Inside This Issue...

- How To Control Spiders 1
- Rave Reviews! 2
- No Syrup For Your Pancakes? 2
- The History of Arbor Day 3
- 20 Rats Pulled Out Of A Wall! 4

## How To Control Spiders

Arachnophobia is the fear of spiders and is the most common of all phobias. If the sight of a spider creates fear in your heart, you are certainly not alone. In Western societies, 55% of females and 18% of males are estimated to experience arachnophobia.

Besides scaring some people "*half to death*", spiders are also very messy and their webs can make even the nicest home look dirty and appear like a "*haunted house*".

Why are spiders such a big problem and why do so many home and business owners have such a terrible time controlling them? If there was one reason, it would probably be that most people don't understand the basic biology and behavior of spiders. In this article, we'd like for you to learn some of these basics so you can keep your home or business "*spider free*" this summer.

### Spiders 101

There are over 35,000 described species of spiders in the world. In the U.S., it is possible to collect between 400 and 700 different species. Fortunately, Orange County residents have only about three species that frequently invade homes and businesses.

The **black widow spider** is probably the most feared spider. The female black widow is jet-black with a red hourglass on its underside. Males are smaller and lighter colored. Females will produce 4-9 white silken egg sacs in a summer and each of these contain **300-400 eggs!** Add up

those numbers and you'll easily understand why these pests can be so hard to control. When a person is bitten by a black widow, body aches are a normal reaction. Their venom may also cause headaches, high blood pressure and nausea.

The **brown widow spider** is a specie that recently became established in California in early 2,000. It has a mottling of tan and brown with black accents and you'll find an orange colored hourglass on its underside. The egg sacs of a brown widow spider are yellowish and have numerous "silk spicules". The venom of a brown widow is as toxic as the Black Widow's but their bites are minor in comparison.

Everyone is concerned about **brown recluse spiders** because their bites can be very painful and dangerous. The good news is that these pests are not found in California.

The "**Daddy Long Legs**" spider likes to live indoors. These spiders have a small grey, elongated body with 8 very long legs. 20-30 eggs are held in a silk net and this is carried with the female as she moves around. These breed year round. Their venom is poisonous but their fangs are too short to penetrate skin and that is why these are not considered to be dangerous.

### What You Can Do To Control Spiders

1. If you have a spider problem, it means that you've got a lot of other bugs that they are eating. Always start

(Turn the page)

### Remembering Harriet Quimby

100 years ago, on April 16, 1912, Harriet Quimby became the first woman to fly across the English Channel. She was also the first U.S. woman to gain a pilot's license on August 1, 1911. Besides aviation, Harriet was a successful Hollywood movie screenwriter and seven of her screenplays became silent films.

*"If we die, we want people to accept it. We're in a risky business, and we hope that if anything happens to us it will not delay the program. The conquest of space is worth the risk of life."*

**Virgil "Gus" Grissom, one of the original Mercury astronauts, born April 3, 1926**

## Rave Reviews!

*“On behalf of the Board of Directors of Hunt Club Estates Homeowners Association, we would like to thank you for your continued service to the Association. You and your staff have always been prompt and courteous in servicing the needs of the community and we appreciate your assistance in keeping our community pest-free.*

*We look forward to our continued relationship with one another and are happy to recommend your services to any other associations who may be looking to retain a quality pest control vendor.*

*Please feel free to include our information on your list of referrals. I can be reached via email at [heather@pcamlv.com](mailto:heather@pcamlv.com) or via telephone at 949-754-4410.”*

**Heather Hoover, CCAM  
Community Manager  
Pinnacle Community Assoc. Mgmt.  
Irvine, Calif.**

*“Thank you for the wonderful service that Termite Terry provides for the Bixby Green Homeowners Association. We truly appreciate your responsiveness and follow-up on all of our requests. It is so nice to work with a vendor who is responsive and can be trusted. Very few vendors go out of their way to contact us with follow-up calls and notices on work requests. We appreciate how David always seems to go the extra mile when it comes to pest and rodent management.*

*Again, thank you for the great service!”*

**Tracy Drivas  
Community Manager  
Bixby Green Homeowners Assoc.  
IDS Asset Management, LLC  
Irvine, Calif.**

- any spider control program by **eliminating the other pests** in your home or business, **first**.
2. **Knock down major cobwebs.** If spiders don't have webs, they can't catch anything and this will help encourage them to go elsewhere. This will also improve the appearance of your home.
  3. **Use a vacuum cleaner** to remove spiders, their egg sacs and webs. Remember how many egg sacs these spiders produce and how many eggs there are in each one? For every egg sac you vacuum up, you could in effect be eliminating up to 400 potential new spiders!! Best of all, this will substantially reduce the amounts of insecticide needed to gain control.
  4. **Sanitation and removal of clutter** is very important because it eliminates so many places for them to live and breed.
  5. **Keep plants cut back** away from the exterior of your home or business. Some homes have plants, shrubs, trees and vines growing against and all over them. If this is the case, there is probably little hope that you'll ever solve your spider problem. Keeping plants cut back is really that important if you want to gain control over spiders.
  6. A residual dust, such as boric acid, can really be effective when applied in attics and subareas. Remember, **very little is needed** and if you can see the dust after you have applied it, you have used too much.
  7. Some residual insecticide sprays can be very useful for exterior treatments. We especially recommend using granular formulations on lawn and soil areas located adjacent to the structure because they are longer lasting. Also, they are less likely to wash away when you irrigate or when it rains. By using these products, you are helping to reduce run-off and doing your part to protect our beaches.

spiders and need help? **Call our office at (949) 631-7348** and ask for us to schedule a **FREE pest audit**. You'll learn all of the different ways you can help to solve your problem. Our regular monthly or bi-monthly pest control services **include removal of major cob webs and wasp nest** so your home or business will always look its best. By using this information, you and your family can truly enjoy a “pest free summer.”

## No More Maple Syrup For Your Pancakes?

It is maple sugaring season in the Midwest and Northeast but the centuries-old tradition of tapping maple trees for sap to make syrup is being threatened by the spread of “Asian longhorned beetles”. These beetles kill maple trees and travel on infested firewood.

Asian longhorned beetles are not native to the U.S. and they have no natural predators. Our native maple trees are very vulnerable to attack because they have no resistance to the beetle's tunneling and chewing.

Several maple syrup-producing states have been hit by infestations of these pests. The most recent case of infestation was found near Cincinnati, Ohio, and eradication efforts are underway. Tragically, many mature maple trees will have to be removed and destroyed.

The Worcester, Maine area is also facing a serious threat because the beetles were able to infest such a large area before being discovered. Beetle infestations were previously found in both New York and New Jersey, but those states appear to have the situation under control. Throughout the region, state officials are vigilant about looking for new signs of infestation.

“Because some people don't realize that moving firewood can spread this tree-killing beetle, more infestations may be discovered in other cities and towns in maple

Are you having a problem with

producing areas,” said Leigh Greenwood, Don’t Move Firewood campaign manager. “Once an infestation occurs, the only way to stop the Asian longhorned beetle’s spread is to cut down all infested and host trees – impacting property owners and local communities and posing a huge threat to the maple syrup industry.”

These beetles cannot move very far on their own. However, when people start moving firewood from one location to another, it enables these pests to spread to new areas which may be far away from their original location. Detecting these beetles in firewood is not easy because they can be hidden in layers of wood beneath the bark.

“It might seem like a good idea to obtain some firewood from another area, or to take along firewood when going camping, but just one log can start a new infestation of the Asian longhorned beetle or other tree killing pests,” said Greenwood. “By buying locally harvested wood, people can help protect their trees by not risking the accidental movement of insects and diseases that can affect entire forests.”

“Ongoing efforts in awareness and education about invasive insects and the Don’t Move Firewood message are very important. We want to stress as an industry that the potential loss from Asian longhorned beetles will far exceed the upfront costs of prevention,” said Dave Chapeskie, executive director of the International Maple Syrup Institute. “Other invasive insects like the emerald ash borer threaten the integrity of the sugar bush, even if they don’t directly threaten the sugar maples.”

### Tips from the Don’t Move Firewood campaign

- Obtain firewood near the location

where you will burn it – that means the wood was cut in a nearby forest, in the same country, or a maximum of 50 miles from where you’ll have your fire.

- Don’t be tempted to bring firewood just because the wood looks clean and healthy. It could still harbor tiny insect eggs or microscopic fungal spores that could start a new and deadly infestation of forest pests.
- Aged or seasoned wood is not considered safe to move, but commercially kiln-dried wood is a good option if you must transport firewood.
- If you have already moved firewood, and you need to dispose of it safely, burn it soon and completely. Make sure to rake the storage area carefully and also burn the debris. In the future, buy from a local source.
- Take care to respect all state and local regulations on firewood movement – some areas are subject to serious fines for violations. For more information, visit your agricultural department’s website.
- Tell your friends and others about the risks of moving firewood – no one wants to be responsible for starting a new pest infestation.

For more information, log onto [www.dontmovefirewood.org](http://www.dontmovefirewood.org).



“Termite” Terry’s Insider Information is Published by:  
“Termite” Terry Pest Control, Inc.  
785 W. 17<sup>th</sup> St. #G, Costa Mesa, CA 92627  
(949)631-7348 [www.termiterry.com](http://www.termiterry.com)



## The History Of Arbor Day

In 1854, among the pioneers moving into the Nebraska Territory was a man named Julius Sterling Morton. He became the editor of a local newspaper called “The Nebraska City News” and in that forum, he was able to spread agricultural information and his enthusiasm for trees.

There weren’t that many trees on the Nebraska plains during those times and trees were needed for windbreaks to help keep soil in place. They were also needed as a source for fuel and building materials.

In his articles, he encouraged individuals, civic organizations and groups to plant trees. He was appointed Secretary of Nebraska Territory by President James Buchanan in 1858 and that provided another opportunity for him to stress the value of trees.

In January, 1872, Morton was at a meeting of the State Board of Agriculture when he first proposed a tree-planting holiday. The date was set for April 10, 1872. They offered prizes to counties and individuals for planting the largest number of trees. The idea was a success and on that first Arbor Day, they estimate that over one million trees were planted.

In 1885, Arbor Day was named a legal holiday in Nebraska and the day of April 22<sup>nd</sup> was selected because that was Morton’s birthday.

Other states passed legislation to observe Arbor Day and it became a nationwide tradition in schools in 1882.

Today, many countries observe a similar holiday and we all owe a debt of gratitude to Julius Sterling Morton for his inspiration.

**“Each generation takes the earth as trustees.”**

**—J. Sterling Morton**

A FREE Monthly Newsletter for Friends and Clients of:

**"Termite" Terry Pest Control, Inc.**

785 W. 17<sup>th</sup> St. #G

Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Office: (949)631-7348 Fax: (949)722-6190

[www.termiteterry.com](http://www.termiteterry.com)



Use your smart phone  
and click here →



Full Line of Pest Control Service || Termite Fumigations and Treatments || Dryrot and Termite Damage Repairs

**\*\*At Termite Terry, We'll Get Rid Of All Your Termites Or  
Your Treatment Is FREEEEEE!!\*\***

## 20 Rats Pulled Out Of A Wall!

It was Friday afternoon and I had promised my wife that I'd be home a little after 5pm so I could take her out for dinner. But, all of my promises went out the window when I got a call from a client who said she had a **smelly dead rat** in her wall and needed it pulled out NOW! I hate saying no, so I had my carpenters meet me at her home.

When we got there, it didn't take long to locate the problem. The rats had already eaten two holes into her laundry room and another large hole into her garage. With her permission, we opened up several areas of the wall. The walls were packed with the rat's nesting materials and we wound up pulling out a total of **20 dead rats!** We did some more investigation to find out how the rats had gotten into her home and discovered they were entering through the water heater room, which was adjacent to the laundry room and garage. We found the water heater room had been turned into a rat's nest, with **leaves and debris piled up 6 inches deep.** We cleaned everything out and saw the rats had chewed 3 more holes through that wall to access the inside of the house.

The main reason this home had a problem was because the contractor who built this home left a gap, 1 ½ inches deep, under the water heater doors and that allowed easy access for the rats. This homeowner was **very lucky that her whole house didn't burn down** because of all the leaves and debris piled up around that "flaming water heater". We recommended that she have us install new thresholds under the doors to keep out the rats and that she have us start doing a monthly rodent baiting service (on the outside) to help curb the rodent population around her home.

Everything worked out well that night and we had a very happy client. Lucky for me, my wife didn't murder me and I was still able to take her out for sushi! ☺



"Termite" Terry Singleton