

EXTENSION CALENDAR

All programs and events will be held at the Lancaster Extension Education Center unless otherwise noted.

March

- 23 **Community & FCE Leader Training Lesson**
"Care Giving: Challenges and Rewards" 1 p.m.
- 23 **Spring Turkey Hunting Workshop 6:30-9:30 p.m.**
- 27 **Family & Community Education (FCE) Council Meeting 7 p.m.**
- 27 **earth wellness festival, Southeast Community College**
- 28 **4-H Horse Dressage Clinic, Lancaster Event Center 5:30 a.m.**

April

- 4 **4-H Council Meeting 7 p.m.**
- 4 **4-H Horse Knowledge Club Meeting 7 p.m.**
- 6 **4-H Spring Rabbit Clinic, Lancaster Extension Education Center,
 444 Cherrycreek Road. 6:30-8:30 p.m.**
- 8 **4-H Spring Rabbit Show, Lancaster Event Center, 84th & Havelock. 9 a.m.**
- 9 **4-H Teen Council Meeting 3 p.m.**
- 13 **Acreage Insights: Rural Living Clinic**
"Horse Nutrition & Management" 7-9 p.m.
- 18 **4-H Horse Knowledge Club Meeting 7 p.m.**
- 20 **Commercial Pesticide Applicator Initial Training 9 a.m.**
- 20 **4-H Public Service Announcements (PSA) Contest 6:30 p.m.**
- 23 **4-H Speech Contest, Lancaster Extension Education Center 1 p.m.**
- 22 **Kiwanis Karnival, Elliott Elementary School 7 p.m.**
- 25 **4-H Horse Trail Clinic, Lancaster Event Center 5:30 a.m.**

Bird FAQs

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- like glass, Plexiglas® or sheet metal.
- Install netting over the attachment area or hang strands of monofilament fishing line from the eaves so the swallows will bump into it.
 - Install metal projections along the junction of the wall and eave.
 - Install a concave surface under the eaves.

Nest removal should be initiated at the first sign of nest-building because it is illegal to remove nests with eggs or young. Nests can be washed down with a hose. Persistent swallows may attempt to rebuild nests several times before abandoning this effort.

Frightening swallows is not effective. Repellents are not effective. An adhesive repellent used for roosting birds (Tanglefoot®) may actually improve nest adherence. The use of toxicants, trapping and shooting are against the law; swallows are classified as migratory insectivorous birds under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.

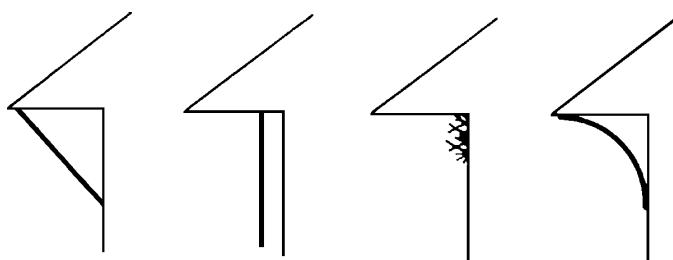


Figure 1. Four methods which may deter swallow nesting. From left to right: Netting attached from the outer edge of the eave down to the side of the building; a curtain of netting; metal projections along the junction of the wall and eave; fiberglass panel mounted to form a smooth, concave surface.

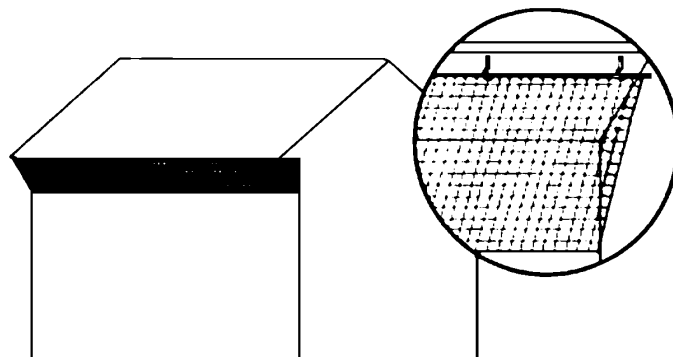


Figure 2. Netting mounted on building from the outside edge of the eave down to the side of the building. Insert shows a method of attachment using hooks and dowels.

Formosan Termites in Wood Mulch? E-mail Rumor is Another Urban Legend

Have you received a recent e-mail about the possibility of Formosan termites in discount store mulch? These e-mails are not providing factual information, but are causing a lot of anxiety.

The facts:

Formosan subterranean termites are more destructive than the eastern subterranean termites that are most common in Nebraska. But, they are a tropical termite species and rarely found above 35 N latitude. They are not likely to survive very well in Nebraska.

Whether Formosan termites could withstand the shredding and bagging process in large enough numbers to form a new colony is possible, but highly improbable.

The possibility of Formosan termites moving in wood damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita was recognized many months ago. The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry imposed a quarantine to prevent the movement of Formosan subterranean termite in wood debris outside the

quarantined area. According to Bob Odom, Louisiana Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry, "The email is not accurate and doesn't even mention the quarantines this department put in place last fall to keep Formosan termites from spreading." Woody debris cannot be moved out of quarantined areas without first submitting a plan for treatment.

"I've had my people out looking into these claims to make sure there are no violations of the quarantine. I've also had our invasive pest expert contact the stores mentioned in the e-mail and we've yet to find any validity to the claims in the e-mail," Odom said.

"In my opinion, someone is using the Internet to cause hysteria about a problem that doesn't really exist. If there are people out there who know about someone violating the quarantines, then they need to report it to us. We'll shut the culprits down real quick but it has to be reported," Odom said. "I think the quarantines doing the job, though. We've worked

with the debris contractors, the Corps of Engineers and FEMA to handle the debris and quarantines."

According to snopes.com, a Web site dedicated to dispelling internet urban legends, Home Depot does not get its wood mulch from the New Orleans area.

After reading this, if you are still concerned, use municipal mulch. Many Nebraska municipalities produce mulch from tree trimmings which should be safe and termite free.

If you want to use bagged mulch and are still concerned, lay the bags of mulch out in the warm sun for a few hours. According to Mike Merchant, Urban Entomologist at Texas A&M University, raising mulch temperatures to 120 degrees for an hour or more is generally sufficient to kill all insect life.

A recent press release from Kansas State can be found at: <http://www.oznet.k-state.edu/news/topstory.asp>

The lesson learned is *don't believe everything you read on the Internet!*



Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension
 in Lancaster County
 444 Cherrycreek Road, Suite A
 Lincoln, NE 68528-1507

Phone: (402) 441-7180

Web site: <http://lancaster.unl.edu>

E-mail: lancaster@unl.edu • Fax: 441-7148

Lancaster Extension Education Center
 Conference Facilities
 444 Cherrycreek Road, Lincoln
 Lobby Phone: 441-7170



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