There is Still Time to Control Bagworms in Early July

Mary Jane Frogge
Extension Associate

Bagworm outbreaks have been increasingly noticeable the past two years in Lancaster County and the south central areas. These insects hatched in early June and have been feeding on plant material for nearly a month. They are about half their mature size and may be hard to see in leafy plant material. Take a walk through your landscape and check all your vegetable plants, especially sprucelike junipers. If you find an outbreak of bagworms, chemical control may be needed. Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) is available at nurseries and garden centers as Dipel or Thuricide. Other insecticides currently labeled for bagworm control include acephate, carbaryl, cyfluthrin, malathion and permethrin. Affected plants must be thoroughly covered with the insecticide to receive good control. Be sure to read and follow all label directions.

Cleaning up After Raccoons

Soni Cochran
Extension Associate

We need to have an important discussion about some dangers associated with raccoon poop, scat, feces, droppings or any material contaminated with raccoon feces. By promptly removing and destroying raccoon feces, you’ll reduce the risk for exposure and possible infection.

Feces and any material contaminated with raccoon feces should be removed using a shovel or inverted plastic bag. This material should be burned, buried or double-bagged and placed in an outside trash receptacle so it can be disposed of in a landfill.

Avoiding Chiggers

Soni Cochran
Extension Associate

If you’ve lived in southeastern Nebraska for any amount of time, you know chigger season is warmer. Bites peak during the first 10 days in July when people are outdoors enjoying camping or sitting on the ground enjoying the fireworks displays. Chiggers (or as my mom calls them, "jiggers") are the immature stage of the red harvest mite. The adult stage doesn’t bite or annoy us but the immature stage — "chigger" — can make our summer outings a miserable memory.

Chiggers will climb on our clothing and then search out areas like the tops of socks or waistbands — basically anywhere clothing fits snug.

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