

Calypso Pest News

September
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German Roach

The German roach, *Blattella germanica* is found in almost all places where humans have settled. It is probably the most common roach found in homes, hotels, restaurants, food processing facilities, supermarkets, and nursing homes. They are nocturnal, but can be seen during the day when disturbed and during periods of high population pressure. They have fully developed wings but are unable to sustain flight. Once established, it can be one of the most difficult pests to get under control and can quickly become a nuisance and health problem due its small size and prolific reproduction capability. Bacteria and viruses have been known to attach themselves to German roaches. They can cause illnesses such as diarrhea and dysentery and can also produce a foul smell.

Appearance: Adults are small, about ½ to 5/8 of an inch long. They range in color from light brown to almost black with two dark stripes behind the head. They have wings but do not fly. Female tend to be a bit larger than the male and live a bit longer as well. Adults generally live from six to nine months even up to a year.

Habitat: German roaches are scavengers and will feed on almost anything. They favor warm, moist conditions and generally stay close to food and water sources. Infestations are usually found in kitchens and bathrooms but can be anywhere there is food water and good hiding places. Given their relatively small size they fit into very small cracks and crevices and spend most of their time hiding there.

Life Cycle: The eggs are produced in an egg case, a tiny brown purse- shape capsule. Each capsule contains 25 to 45 eggs and the female roach can produce a new capsule every three to four weeks. Female can start producing capsule in about 36 days and can produce six to eight capsules in her life time. Each capsule stays attach to female until ready to hatch. Upon hatching the immature roaches called nymphs will undergo several molts to transform into adults over a period of a few weeks. The nymphs look like the adults but are wingless.

Control: To control or eradicate German roaches one has to rely on multiple control tactics. These include but are not limited to sanitation, chemical means using baits, traps, effective control of German roach and other household pests.



Keep sides and areas around stove and refrigerator clean to prevent harboring roaches.

Useful Link

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service—
Entomology and Pest Control:
<http://www.freshfromflorida.com/onestop/aes/pestcont.html>

September Special

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8 Banyan Road, Unit C
Ocala, Florida 34472
Phone: 352-694-7378
Fax: 352-694-7373
Email: sales@calypsopestcontrol.com
Website: <http://www.calypsopestcontrol.com>

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