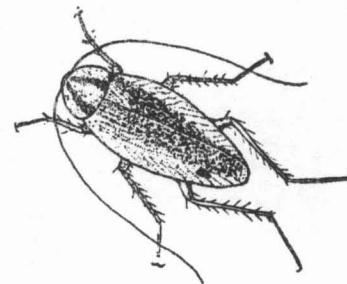


## CONTROL OF HOUSEFLIES AND COCKROACHES

by

James A. Deer, Assistant Extension Entomologist  
TEXAS A. AND M. COLLEGE SYSTEM

## HOUSEFLIES

The common housefly is about one-fourth inch long, grayish in color and does not bite. It is a carrier of filth and disease and due to its rapid breeding is difficult to control. It may fly up to five miles from its breeding ground. Control should be on a community basis.

*Life History:* Each female fly lays up to 2000 eggs or more over a period of a month in manure, garbage and other filth. The eggs hatch in about 20 hours and become an adult in about 10 days. The adult lives 30 to 60 days.

*Control:* Sanitation should be the primary measure in fly control. Insecticides are almost useless unless fly-breeding places are eliminated. Garbage should be burned or otherwise destroyed; manure should be spread to dry; all containers or garbage or other such matter should be sprayed; slop-troughs should be kept clean, septic tanks should be made fly-proof.

DDT remains one of the best insecticides. A five percent DDT residual oil spray should be used about the house. A five percent DDT emulsion or wettable powder spray is favored for barn and other outbuildings. If DDT appears to be unsatisfactory, either a two percent chlordane spray or a combination spray containing two and one-half percent DDT and two percent chlordane should give good results.

Remember: The watchword for fly control is *sanitation*.

## COCKROACHES

There are three species of roaches common in Texas. The German roach is about five-eighths inch long, winged in the adult stage and muddy brown

in color. The oriental roach is about one-inch in length, has short wings and is dark brown in color. The American roach is the largest of the three species, reaching up to two and one-half inches in length, and is chestnut-colored and is fully winged as an adult.

*Life History:* The eggs are laid in capsules containing about 13 pairs of eggs. These egg capsules are deposited in dark corners and crevices, and are often brought into the house under the flaps of paper bags or cardboard boxes. The time required for the egg to hatch and the insect to become full-grown is about a year.

*Food:* Cockroaches commonly feed upon the same substances as man. They also eat starchy materials such as wallpaper paste.

*Control:* Since roaches may be brought into the home in grocery bags or boxes, often they are found even in the cleanest of homes. They may be controlled without much difficulty if the job is done properly. A two percent chlordane household spray is effective. For best results, the following steps are suggested:

1. Remove all foodstuffs, utensils, etc., from cabinets and storage closets.
2. Wash these places with soap and water to remove musty roach odor.
3. Spray with two percent chlordane, making sure that all cracks, crevices and baseboards are treated thoroughly.
4. Replace food and utensils after the spray has dried. Do not wipe off the residue.

A thorough treatment as outlined above will give control for up to six months.

Issued by  
The Agricultural Extension Service  
The Texas A. & M. College System and  
The United States Department of Agriculture  
G. G. Gibson, Director, College Station, Texas.