7B Wood Destroying Pests Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide

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Questions

1. **If a carpenter ant colony is found outside but causing problems inside a building, what should the client be advised to do?**

   A. Trim trees where branches overhang or touch roofs

   B. Use insecticidal sprays indoors

   C. Leave entryways open for easier access

   D. Place traps inside the building

2. **Which characteristic pertains to the Lyctidae family of beetles?**

   A. Attacks softwoods only

   B. Deposits eggs in ports of hardwoods

   C. Has a roughened pronotum

   D. Has a bright coloration

3. **Which type of synthetic insecticide is considered to have low toxicity and is effective against wood-destroying fungi and insects?**

   A. Pyrenthrins

   B. Diatomaceous earth

   C. Borates

   D. Neonicotinoids

4. **What is a key characteristic of worker termites?**

   A. They have wings

   B. They are the most numerous

   C. They are the only ones that reproduce

   D. They are the largest in size

5. **What situation can lead to contamination of water supplies during pesticide application?**

   A. Low water tables

   B. High water tables

   C. Incorrect dosage of pesticide

   D. Use of multiple applicators

6. Which statement is true about termite colony formation by budding?

A. It occurs randomly

B. Only queens participate

C. It requires a well established colony

D. It can only happen in drywood termites

7. What type of body shape do false powderpost beetles have?

A. Flattened

B. Cylindrical

C. Oval shaped

D. Flat and wide

8. Regular dusting is particularly effective for eliminating which type of spider?

A. Jumping spider

B. Brown recluse spider

C. Cobweb spider

D. Tarantula

9. What effect do integrated pest management practices have when used along with pesticide applications?

A. Increase pesticide reliance

B. Reduce the need for pesticides

C. No effect on pest control

D. Only benefit large-scale operations

10. What kind of wings do supplementary reproductives have?

A. Functional wings

B. Short, non-functional wings

C. Long, functional wings

D. No wings

Answers

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. B
5. B
6. C
7. B
8. C
9. B
10. B

Explanations

1. If a carpenter ant colony is found outside but causing problems inside a building, what should the client be advised to do?

A. Trim trees where branches overhang or touch roofs

B. Use insecticidal sprays indoors

C. Leave entryways open for easier access

D. Place traps inside the building

Advising the client to trim trees where branches overhang or touch roofs is a proactive measure in managing a carpenter ant colony that has been identified as problematic inside a building but originating from the exterior. Carpenter ants often gain access to structures through these branches since they can bridge the gap between trees and buildings. By trimming back these branches, the client can significantly reduce the likelihood of the ants finding a direct pathway into the structure. This step not only helps in minimizing future infestations but also disrupts the colony's access to food sources and nesting sites that might be near the building. It's important to note that while other options may seem like immediate solutions, they could potentially exacerbate the situation. For instance, using insecticidal sprays indoors could address the visible ants temporarily but would not resolve the underlying issue of their access point from outside. Leaving entryways open invites more pests, and placing traps inside may help catch some individual ants but does not eliminate the source of the problem. Therefore, trimming back trees is a strategic and effective approach to prevent the carpenter ants from continuing to invade the interior of the building.

2. Which characteristic pertains to the Lyctidae family of beetles?

A. Attacks softwoods only

B. Deposits eggs in ports of hardwoods

C. Has a roughened pronotum

D. Has a bright coloration

The characteristic that pertains to the Lyctidae family of beetles is that they deposit their eggs in the pores of hardwoods. This behavior is significant because Lyctidae beetles, commonly known as powderpost beetles, primarily infest hardwood species. The reproductive strategy of laying eggs in the pores of the wood allows the larvae to have direct access to the nutrient-rich wood material once they hatch, facilitating their development. Understanding their reproductive habits is crucial for pest management because recognizing the signs of infestation—such as tiny exit holes or powdery frass—often involves identifying the type of wood being infested. This insight is valuable for homeowners and pest control professionals when developing targeted treatment strategies against these pests. The other characteristics mentioned, like the notion of attacking only softwoods, having a roughened pronotum, or exhibiting bright coloration, are not applicable to the Lyctidae family. In fact, powderpost beetles are known for infesting hardwoods and have a distinctly smooth body rather than a roughened pronotum, which is characteristic of other beetle families. They also do not display bright coloration; instead, they tend to have muted hues that blend with their wood environments.

3. Which type of synthetic insecticide is considered to have low toxicity and is effective against wood-destroying fungi and insects?

A. Pyrenthrins

B. Diatomaceous earth

C. Borates

D. Neonicotinoids

The correct answer is borates because they are a type of synthetic insecticide known for their low toxicity to humans and pets, while effectively targeting wood-destroying fungi and insects. Borates work by disrupting the metabolic processes of pests, making them less likely to develop resistance compared to other insecticides. Borates can be applied as a treatment to wood and soil, helping to protect structures from various wood-destroying organisms. They are particularly valued in pest management due to their safety and effectiveness, especially in comparison to more toxic alternatives. In terms of the other options, while pyrethrins are effective against a variety of pests, they can have higher toxicity levels and are often derived from natural sources, which does not align with the synthetic aspect mentioned in the question. Diatomaceous earth is a mechanical insecticide that works by physically damaging the exoskeletons of insects, but it does not directly target wood-destroying fungi. Neonicotinoids are notorious for their toxicity to beneficial insects, particularly pollinators, and while they can be effective, their overall safety profile compared to borates is less favorable.

4. What is a key characteristic of worker termites?

A. They have wings

B. They are the most numerous

C. They are the only ones that reproduce

D. They are the largest in size

Worker termites are characterized by their significant role within the colony, which is why they are the most numerous caste. They are responsible for foraging for food, caring for the queen's eggs, and maintaining the nest. This large population allows the colony to function effectively, as workers carry out essential tasks that support the survival and growth of the colony. In contrast, while some termites do possess wings during certain life stages, workers do not have wings in their adult form. Additionally, workers do not reproduce; that role falls to the queen and king of the colony. Lastly, worker termites are not the largest in size; typically, the queen is the largest member of the colony, responsible for reproduction. Therefore, the prominence of worker termites in numbers directly correlates with their fundamental duties in sustaining the colony, establishing this characteristic as key.

5. What situation can lead to contamination of water supplies during pesticide application?

A. Low water tables

B. High water tables

C. Incorrect dosage of pesticide

D. Use of multiple applicators

High water tables can lead to contamination of water supplies during pesticide application because they indicate that the groundwater is close to the surface. When pesticide is applied, particularly in areas with high moisture levels in the soil, there is a greater risk that the chemicals can leach into the groundwater or be carried away by surface runoff during rain events. This can result in pesticides entering water sources more easily than in areas where lower water tables exist. In contrast, low water tables typically denote that the ground is drier, reducing the risk of contaminants reaching the water supply and allowing for more effective absorption of pesticides without immediate runoff potential. Other factors like incorrect dosage, while crucial for effective pest control and safety, do not inherently increase the risk of water contamination in the same direct manner as high water tables do. Similarly, the use of multiple applicators does not directly correlate with water supply contamination; it depends more on the handling and application practices rather than just the number of applicators involved.

6. Which statement is true about termite colony formation by budding?

A. It occurs randomly

B. Only queens participate

C. It requires a well established colony

D. It can only happen in drywood termites

The statement that termite colony formation by budding requires a well-established colony is accurate. Budding typically occurs when a mature and healthy colony produces new individuals that can establish their own colonies. In this process, a portion of the colony's workers, along with a new queen, may leave to start a new colony nearby. This method of reproduction is advantageous because it allows termites to expand their territory and spread genetically, while relying on the stability and resources of an established colony. The nature of budding emphasizes the importance of an existing, thriving colony, as it serves as the foundation necessary for producing new reproductive individuals. Without an established colony to support this process, the likelihood of successful budding decreases significantly.

7. What type of body shape do false powderpost beetles have?

A. Flattened

B. Cylindrical

C. Oval shaped

D. Flat and wide

False powderpost beetles possess a cylindrical body shape, which is characteristic of this group of beetles. This shape helps them navigate through tight spaces in wood and assists in their behavior, such as boring into wood to lay eggs. The cylindrical form is slender and elongated, distinguishing them from other beetle types that might have different shapes, like flattened or oval forms, which may not facilitate their specific activities as effectively. Additionally, understanding the body structure of these pests is significant in pest management and identification, allowing professionals to implement appropriate control measures when they encounter these beetles in infested wood.

8. Regular dusting is particularly effective for eliminating which type of spider?

A. Jumping spider

B. Brown recluse spider

C. Cobweb spider

D. Tarantula

Regular dusting is particularly effective for eliminating cobweb spiders. These spiders tend to create webs in corners and hidden areas where dust can accumulate. By regularly dusting these areas, you can disrupt the webs and eliminate the spiders that rely on them for catching prey and shelter. Cobweb spiders are often found in homes and are known for their messy, irregular webs, making them more vulnerable to disturbances caused by cleaning. In contrast, jumping spiders are active hunters that do not rely on webs for capture, while brown recluse spiders prefer dark and sheltered places and are not typically eliminated by dusting alone. Tarantulas are more robust and less affected by dusting methods, as they do not create webs and mainly reside in burrows or hidden environments. Thus, dusting is especially beneficial for managing cobweb spiders in residential settings.

9. What effect do integrated pest management practices have when used along with pesticide applications?

A. Increase pesticide reliance

B. Reduce the need for pesticides

C. No effect on pest control

D. Only benefit large-scale operations

Integrated pest management (IPM) practices aim to reduce pest populations through a combination of strategies, including cultural, biological, mechanical, and chemical methods. When these practices are implemented alongside pesticide applications, they can significantly lower the overall need for chemical interventions. This is because IPM emphasizes understanding pest life cycles and behaviors, allowing for targeted actions that minimize the reliance on pesticides. By using methods like habitat modification, natural predator introduction, and monitoring pest levels, the quantity and frequency of pesticide applications can be minimized. This not only protects beneficial insects and the environment but also promotes sustainable practices in pest management, leading to healthier ecosystems. In contrast, options that suggest increasing reliance on pesticides or having no effect on pest control do not align with the core principles of IPM, which prioritize a more holistic approach to pest management. Additionally, IPM is beneficial for all scales of operations and is not limited to large-scale practices, making that choice less valid as well. Thus, the integration of IPM with pesticide use effectively supports a reduction in pesticide need.

10. What kind of wings do supplementary reproductives have?

A. Functional wings

B. Short, non-functional wings

C. Long, functional wings

D. No wings

Supplementary reproductives, which are typically found in certain social insects, particularly termites, have short, non-functional wings. This characteristic differentiates them from primary reproductives, which may have functional wings that allow them to disperse and establish new colonies. The presence of short, non-functional wings indicates that these individuals are adapted for life within an established colony rather than for swarming or flight. In contrast, other options refer to wing configurations that do not apply to supplementary reproductives in their regular form. This specialized adaptation helps maintain the stability and functionality of the colony, as these reproductives can contribute to the reproductive processes without needing to leave the nest or engage in aerial dispersal.